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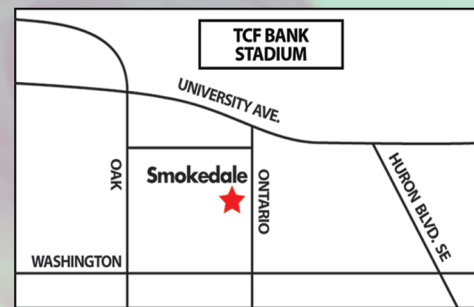
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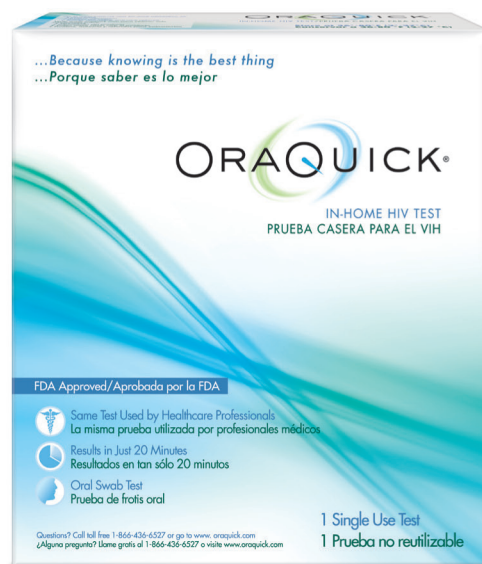
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Editorial

Managing Editor Andy Lien 612-436-4671

Editorial Assistant Linda Raines 612-436-4694

Editor Emeritus Ethan Boatner 612-436-4670

Editorial Associate George Holdgrafer 612-436-4672

Food Editor Joy Summers

Copy Editor Bridget Rocheford-Kearney

Contributors Ed Huyck, Justin Jones, Ellen Krug, Steve Lenius, Jennifer Parelo, Joy Summers, John Townsend, Carla Waldemar, Randy Stern, Shane Lueck, Kathleen Watson, Keane Amdahl, Brett Stevens, Brian Harper-Tibaldo, Pam Colby, Todd Pernsteiner, Ryan McEnaney, Terrance Griep, Aaron Rubenstein, Ross Sveback, Jim Smith

Advertising

Sales & Advertising Director Barry Leavitt 612-436-4690

Senior Account Executive Suzanne Farrell 612-436-4699

Account Executive Richard Kranz 612-436-4675,
Morgan Ross 612-436-4697

Advertising Associate George Holdgrafer 612-436-4672

Sales & Advertising Traffic Coordinator
Linda Raines 612-436-4694

Sales Appointments Michelle Ulmer 612-436-4693

Classifieds Suzanne Farrell 612-436-4699

National Sales Representative Rivendell Media
212-242-6863

Creative

Creative Director Hubert Bonnet 612-436-4678

Multimedia Designer Mike Hnida 612-436-4679

Photographer Sophia Hantzes

Lavender Studios Hubert Bonnet, Mike Hnida, Austin Lindstrom

Administration

Publisher Lavender Media, Inc.

President & CEO Stephen Rocheford 612-436-4665

Vice President & CC Pierre Tardif 612-436-4666

Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Lima 612-436-4664

Administrative Assistant Austin Lindstrom 612-436-4661

Founders George Holdgrafer, Stephen Rocheford

Inspiration Steven W. Anderson (1954-1994), Timothy J. Lee (1968-2002), Russell Berg (1957-2005), Kathryn Rocheford (1914-2006), Jonathan Halverson (1974-2010), Adam Houghtaling (1984-2012)

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Lavender Media, Inc.

3715 Chicago Avenue S., Minneapolis, MN 55407
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877-515-9969 **Toll Free**

612-436-4685 **Fax**

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CELEBRATE LOVE!

BY ANDY LIEN

Welcome to Lavender's 2013 Pride Issue. The theme is "Celebrate Love!" and we couldn't be more excited about it. Looking at the cover, it's all about what we can celebrate and what we can look forward to in the state of Minnesota this summer. And so much more.

1. The State Capitol: Where history was made in May, 2013, with the passage of marriage equality in Minnesota. People sat in the galleries of the House and Senate and listened to the testimony of legislators with rapt attention. Singers and sign-holders and protesters filled the hallways outside the chambers and called for them to vote "yes." The Governor signed love into law on the steps as the community watched, with pride.

2. The Colors: Clear and proud is the rainbow Pride flag behind the Lavender logo. People are wearing bright colors as they strike ecstatic poses on the steps of the Capitol, which is surrounded by orange. Color has meaning. Here, it is celebratory. It is gay. It is bold.

3. The Pride Award Recipients: In an among the celebrants on the cover are members of Shades of Yellow (SOY) and Brent Dundore, himself. SOY has been a strong presence in the Twin Cities for 10 years representing the Hmong community and is receiving the Community Pride Award. Brent Dundore is the winner of the Everyday

Hero Award and has been a gem of an artist and activist. I have truly enjoyed collaborating with him these past few months. His Marry Us photo campaign gave a striking visual element to the fight for marriage equality and this cover is iconic.

4. The Family: Paul Melchert and James Zimmerman stood up and spoke out for marriage equality, both against the amendment and for the freedom to marry. Though they were married years ago, they agreed to pose on our cover (and are wearing their wedding suits for the occasion) with their twin boys, Emmett and Gabriel. This fight was about family, theirs and so many others.

5. The Officiant: Bradley Traynor is a Lavender favorite who spent six years of his career here before moving to myTalk 107.1 as a week-day radio personality. You'll see more of Brad during PRIDE events, like PRIDE in Concert, at which he will be the emcee.

6. The Fact that There's No Channing Tatum: I'll leave it at that. Thank you for picking up the Pride Issue. We're proud of the issue, we're proud of our community, and we're proud of our state.

In celebration and with love,
Andy 

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War Horse, War Horses, and a Thought About Pride

BY E.B. BOATNER

While considering our close connections to all the other creatures on planet Earth, I realized that *War Horse*, the Tony Award-winning play opening this week at the Orpheum, offers a splendid dramatic example of this interconnectedness.

Based on Michael Morpurgo's 1982 children's book, *War Horse* recounts the mutual love of young Albert and the family's horse, Joey. Come 1914, and Joey (along with a million other horses) is bought by the British cavalry and shipped to France into battle. Albert, too young to fight, sets out to find Joey.

Those who've seen both Stephen Spielberg's film and the play—in London or New York—have reported that Adrian Kohler and Basil Jones's Handspring Puppet Company's creations are more compelling than the live horses. (Joey visited the Twin Cities some months ago at the Hennepin Theatre Trust's upcoming season preview; the moment he pranced forth life-sized and bowing in the spotlight, the audience erupted in cheers of wonder and amazement.)

Like the play's other horses, Joey is fashioned from cane, a natural material that is light, pliable and terrifically strong. This openwork, ribbed body becomes a living entity in the eye of the beholder, inter-

nalizing his human "handlers." Kohler and Jones studied Eadweard Muybridge's 1870's equine locomotion photographs and spent hours observing live animals to get physically, mentally, and emotionally inside a horse. The mechanism controlling Joey's ears alone is able to express a wide range of his emotions.

Empathy is the key: To make the puppets required not only incredible technical skills, but also the creators' belief that living animals *have* emotions in the first place; not anthropomorphizing, but simply acknowledging that animals—horses being only one among countless others—are cognizant.

Kohler and Jones, business and life partners for over 40 years, have an intuitive understanding of human/animal bonds and through their craft created a stunning sentient creature through whose eyes the audience views the horrors of French and German battlefields.

Remembering this connection between living things, let us approach Pride not just proud of our sexual preference or gender, but proud of how we live our lives embracing these aspects; proud to stand up for ourselves, for our loved ones and for others who need love, compassion, and protection whether human or animal. □

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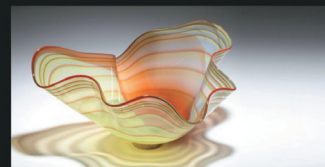
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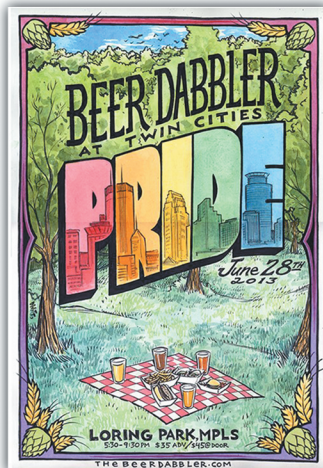
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Wedding Showcase:

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HAPPY PRIDE!

Minnesota became the 12th State in the Union to legalize Same-Sex Marriage in 2013 and we have much to celebrate in this 41st Anniversary Pride Season! Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make this dream a reality!

At Pride we're energized by the six pillars of the Rainbow: **Red for Strength, Orange for Enthusiasm, Yellow for Happiness, Green for Growth, Blue for Confidence, and Purple for Power.** This year, especially, we are celebrating Pride by exclaiming "I HAVE PRIDE!"



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AND THE PRIDE AWARDS GO TO...

BY SHANE LUECK

Hear ye, hear ye! Following a rigorous process, winners for the 2013 Pride Awards have been announced!

Each year, the Board of Directors of Twin Cities Pride selects a winner for pride awards in three categories: Everyday Hero, Community Pride, and Corporate Achievement. The process began with nominators not only writing a recommendation, but they must also give a presentation to the awards committee. From there, nominees must be confirmed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors in order to even be considered a candidate. Upon the review of these nominees, it will be put to a vote by the assembled officers, directors, and agents of the Board of Directors to perform the final selection.

And so, without further ado:

Everyday Hero Award

During the 2012 election, Minnesotans were asked to vote on an amendment which addressed marriage as defined in the state constitution. Photographer Brent Dundore put his passion for giving back to the community and a desire to help make an impact on the outcome of the election to good use.

After moving back to Minnesota last year following a stint in California, Dundore knew this was the place that he wanted to start a family someday. "Having that family is my ultimate goal in life. I know that we need to have the same rights through the base of marriage, otherwise my kids would always see their parents as different, and that they aren't equal to their friends' parents," Dundore says. "I wasn't just going to sit back and watch this happen!"

As a member of the Twin Cities Gay Mens Chorus, Dundore was approached to do some promotional photo work for their concert series "Marry Us." However, Dundore imagined it could be bigger than that. Step-by-step, he made "Marry Us" into a social media campaign creating awareness that there are thousands of people who "do have a voice and want to be heard!" The photos, taken against a white background with the words "MARRY US" along with campaign info superimposed, are the brainchild of someone who wanted to do something more.

In the year to follow, Dundore found every opportunity possible to be at events and to photograph people who supported equality. Fast forward to events within the last month when momentum picked up as the Minnesota House and Senate were going to vote on marriage equality. "I wanted to be at every single happening before they voted and to document it in the best way that I could: using my photography," says Dundore, who was continuously posting photos to the Marry Us Campaign on Facebook.

Through Dundore's BDPortraits Photo Studio, he has been able to follow through on his Marry



Brent Dundore. Photo by BDPortraits Photo Studio - BDPortraits.com

Us Campaign. Presented to an "unsung hero" amongst us, the Everyday Hero Award recognizes an individual who has not yet been acknowledged for their work. Brent Dundore is certainly an unsung hero, having spent countless hours of his time attending GLBT events throughout the Twin Cities in order to provide people with the opportunity to have their support of marriage equality documented in film. He is even sporting a new venture, mnGLBTweddings.com, which will be a one stop shop for everyone in Minnesota looking to get married. But his work is not yet complete.

Although the first of August will be a remarkable day for many people who will now be able to marry the love of their life, the same is not true for Dundore. His partner is not a citizen of this country. Therefore, even with the passing of this marriage equality bill, Dundore and his partner still have hurdles to face which fuel his future endeavors. "My new goal, is to go national and create awareness on an even bigger level," Dundore says. "And that I will."

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Shades of Yellow (SOY). Photo by BDPortraits Photo Studio - BDPortraits.com

Community Pride Award

This year marks the 10-year anniversary for Shades of Yellow (SOY), a nonprofit organization fighting for the recognition and awareness within the Hmong community of Hmong LGBTQ. In a community that doesn't have a positive word in their language that means "gay," the Hmong LGBTQ faces some uphill battles. Made up of a diverse group of community members, constituents, and allies, SOY works to provide support, education, advocacy, and leadership development to not only Hmong LGBTQ individuals, but allies as well. Based in St. Paul, SOY is a unique entity as the only organization in the world focused on Hmong LGBTQ issues. As such, SOY makes an effort to increase online presence and reach out to other members of the community across the country.

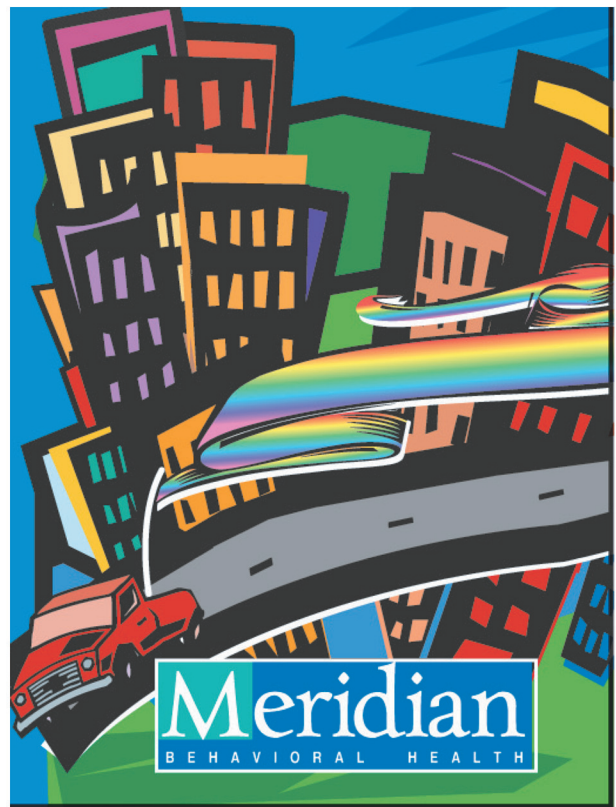
The Community Pride Award is presented to an organization or group that has done great things for the GLBT community. SOY fits the bill, hands down. Bruce Thao, an advisory board member of SOY, said this award is a tribute to all of the people who have been a part of SOY or believed in its mission over the past ten years. "It propels us forward as we continue to carry out our mission to cultivate a community of empowered Hmong LGBTQ and allies to challenge what we've known and ignite positive cultural and social change," he says.

Battling societal norms is not an easy task, which Thao recognizes. Yet, he remains optimistic. "We envision a world where Hmong LGBTQ and allies are liberated and celebrated for who we are," he says. "Together, we are making this dream a reality."

Problems with Drugs or Alcohol?

Our Latitudes program offers confidential, specialized treatment and programming for LGBT individuals, including mental health and sexuality support. With a *new* stand-alone residential program (opening this summer), and three outpatient programs, we have programs to fit your needs.

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Pride Awards

Corporate Achievement Award

It can be tough for an individual to speak out for equal rights, but it can be an even bigger risk for a business or organization to do so. Presented to a business or organization that has made strides in combating discrimination in the work place, the Corporate Achievement Award recognizes St. Jude Medical for doing just that.

Since April of 1999, St. Jude Medical has prohibited workplace discrimination on the basis of gender and sexual orientation. Within the past year, St. Jude Medical was an unsung hero as the first Fortune 500 company to publicly oppose the marriage amendment last November, joining the MN United for All Families coalition. By signing their name to the coalition, St. Jude Medical took a great risk, but they did so because they felt it was the right thing to do. Putting their name

on the line to help defeat the ballot initiative, CEO Dan Starks and Angela Craig, head of Global Human Resources, were two of 26 business leaders to sign a letter to the governor and state legislative leaders in support of marriage equality.

"We are honored to be chosen for this award," Craig says. "Our opposition to the marriage amendment was based on the basic belief that all of our employees and their families should be treated equally."

Public backing of "Vote No" by corporate entities and allies like St. Jude has been perceived as one of the key factors in the success of the campaign (along with connections within the faith community, fundraising and time in mobilizing supporters). "We believe that it is important for Minnesota to be viewed as inclusive in order to recruit and retain the best talent," Craig says. "■

Pride Music

BY RYAN McENANEY

Pride Music

If you're looking for a huge variety of local musicians, Twin Cities PRIDE is the place to be. With 5 stages and a special Festival Support Grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board (MSAB), PRIDE has one of the most diverse and wide-reaching groups of local talent in the state.

With the grant's focus on providing opportunity for Minnesotans to experience local arts through festivals – and also to allow local artists greater exposure – PRIDE took on the task of selecting artists with great excitement. They reached out to local venues and media outlets – including The Fine Line, First Avenue, and The Current – to suggest artists, and then assembled a music jury to review over 40 submissions in March.

"Steve Haussy, our Entertainment Manager, had the difficult task of scheduling the 23 selected acts and performed minor miracles in getting them all scheduled," according to Dot Belstler, Executive Director of Twin Cities PRIDE. "The lineup that Steve put together is incredible. Between the 5 stages, attendees will ALWAYS have someone they love to listen to."

Many of the new local groups that will be featured at PRIDE can be heard on The Current and in local venues, including: The Chalice, Buffalo Moon, Strange Names, Southside Desire, Duck Duck Punch, Keri Noble, and Boogie Wonderland.

"We believe that the mix of new groups, combined with old favorites will provide a great entertainment experience for all who attend the PRIDE Festival," said Belstler. "We look forward to seeing everyone there in a couple short weeks!"

The MSAB grant allows for PRIDE to present these local performances at no cost to Festival attendees. For schedules and more information, please visit www.tcpride.org.



Keri Noble.

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Pride VIP

BY RYAN McENANEY



Mark Hayes. Photo by BDPortraits Photo Studio - BDPortraits.com

After a recent return to Minnesota from years of working in Los Angeles, Mark Hayes was determined to bring a fresh approach to Twin Cities PRIDE. His company, the clique, has partnered with the Twin Cities PRIDE organization to do just that. "I have loved attending PRIDE in the Cities in years past, but I felt like there was room for some new options to really elevate the PRIDE experience," Hayes said. With the last year being focused heavily on the politics of gay marriage – and with the incredible success of the Freedom to Marry bill – Hayes wants to bring a renewed sense of excitement, celebration and festivity to PRIDE. "My goal is to create the opportunity for people to have amazing, fun, and new event options all weekend long. All of our events have really great perks built in to make it enjoyable for all."


A California native, Hayes began his career at an early age in Los Angeles. He worked at Bolthouse Productions during the company's infamous role on "The Hills," with owner Brent Bolthouse as Heidi Montag's boss. From there, Hayes went on to produce and work major entertainment events including the Entertainment Tonight Emmy Awards Party, Critics' Choice Awards, Vanity Fair Oscar Party and Coachella mainstay Neon Carnival, as well as with major corporate clients such as Mini Cooper, World Wrestling Entertainment, Tutti Frutti and Nylon Guys. After many successful years working with the best of the best in Los Angeles, Hayes relocated to Minneapolis to form RMH Partners and the clique, full-service publicity, brand marketing and event production companies. "I loved living in Minnesota, and look forward to bringing some LA energy to the Cities. I think that people crave creative and out-of-the-box events, as we've seen with other great producers in town, and I can't wait to introduce people to something new." One of those new elements is the Ultimate PRIDE Experience, a package of 3 major events that are bound to create some major buzz during PRIDE. Kicking off with

PRIDE in Concert, Hayes and his company have developed The Lounge, a VIP tent in Loring Park with direct access to preferential front row viewing of the concert. Not only do you get front row access, but The Lounge will also be fully decked out with furniture and a complimentary bar with craft beer, wine, sangria and appetizers. It's the only place in the park that you can get craft beer, and it's free! Who knows, maybe headliners Nina Sky and Neon Hitch will stop by to have a drink with you before their set?

After PRIDE in Concert, Hayes has created the first party officially presented by the Twin Cities PRIDE organization. It is sweet. It is sexy. It is LOLLIPOP: the adult Candyland. "This PRIDE party is going to be totally awesome. Nina Sky and Neon Hitch are hosting. DJ Will Z is flying in from California. We have amazing surprises set for all 3 rooms and bars, and it is definitely going to be a night to remember." Hayes and the clique are taking over the newly renovated Skyway Theatre for their sugary sweet party. He explains that "the team at Skyway has put a lot of work into making the space look incredible, and it has a really cool vibe to it that is perfect for this event."

Once you've danced the night away and gotten ready for Sunday's PRIDE parade, Hayes has partnered with Richard Anderson (AKA Bitch Flowers) for the Bitch 'n' Brunch at SEVEN Ultralounge | Skybar. Not only is SEVEN pulling out all of the stops on their amazing brunch, but you also get one of the best rooftop viewing locations for the parade, plus floor-to-ceiling views inside. Hayes' focus is to keep everything festive and celebratory, and this brunch is no exception. Bitch Flowers and Foxy Tann will be giving hilarious commentary on the parade, and Hayes has planned a few extra treats for the day. "Brunch is always about having fun as it is, but this is PRIDE, so we have to take it up a notch. We've got early admission for Ultimate PRIDE Experience ticket holders, a photo booth, free drink tickets, huge raffle prizes, and an appearance by Grand Marshal Chris Kluwe!"

Whether it's your first or 15th time at Twin Cities PRIDE, Hayes has brought his West Coast flavor to Minneapolis to make sure that you have an unforgettable weekend. "At the end of the day, this is a hugely important celebration and community moment for the LGBT community and allies. I am so excited to bring these concepts to Minneapolis and share in the excitement of Twin Cities PRIDE."

For more information, go to the clique's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/thecliqueminneapolis). Online presale tickets are available at <http://tcpride.showclix.com>. 

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A GUIDE TO PRIDE AT THE BARS

BY GEORGE HOLDGRAFER

As always, Twin Cities GLBT bars are offering a cornucopia of events this year to celebrate Pride 2013, the 44th anniversary both of Stonewall, the catalyst for gay liberation nationwide that took place on June 27, 1969, in New York City, and of FREE (Fight Repression of Erotic Expression, Minnesota's first gay organization that was founded on May 18, 1969. Other events usually are added after *Lavender's* press deadline, so for more information and updates, check out bar websites and phone numbers listed herein.

19 Bar

On June 2, Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain marked the 60th anniversary of her coronation, and the venerable 19 Bar near Downtown Minneapolis, with an iconic portrait of the monarch on its north wall, observes an awesome 61st anniversary this year as the oldest local GLBT establishment. Just two blocks east of Loring Park, the 19 will attract a capacity crowd to party on its beautiful outdoor patio in back or shoot a game of pool inside on Pride Weekend, June 29-30. 19 Bar • 19 W. 15th St., Mpls. • (612) 871-5553

Camp Bar

Six years old this month, Camp Bar in Downtown St. Paul has several Minnesota Leather Pride activities: MAsT's Leather Pride Swap Meet on June 25 and Knights of Leather's Flogapalooza on June 28. On Pride Sunday, June 30, Premier Entertainment chanteuse Mia Dorr croons her always-superb evening performance. Camp Bar • 490 N. Robert St., St. Paul • (651) 292-1844 • www.camp-bar.net



Bob Hager at eagleBOLTbar.
Photo courtesy of COLTstudios.com

eagleBOLTbar

Celebrating its 15th anniversary in September, the eagleBOLTbar in Downtown Minneapolis presents Scorch Fireball 14 on Pride Weekend. Rain or shine, "Party Under The Big Top" June 28 and 29 at the covered parking lot. Inside the bar, pulchritudinous COLT Studio Group model Bob Hager heats up the Underground the night of June 29. Dominating on June 30 are the "All You Can Swallow" Beer Bust and Showtunes.

eagleBOLTbar • 515 Washington Ave. S., Mpls. • (612) 338-4214 • www.eagleBOLTbar.com

Continued on page 32 ➔

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Bars



(Left) Kourtney van Wales. Photo courtesy of Gay 90's
BeBe Zahara Benet. Photo courtesy of Gay 90's

Gay 90's

A local community mainstay since 1957, the Gay 90's in Downtown Minneapolis features superlative drag. On June 27, don't miss the annual Miss City of the Lakes Pageant in the Show Lounge, along with the Summer Time Luau Mini Ball Deluxe in the Dance Annex. Headlining the La Femme Show Lounge Ultimate Pride Drag Shows on June 28-30 are Kourtney Van Wales, Miss Minnesota Continental, and BeBe Zahara Benet, 2009 RuPaul Drag Race Winner. Suds yourself at the Pride Foam Party at the Dance Annex on June 28. Before you watch the Pride Parade on Hennepin Avenue outside the bar on June 30, feast on the Pride Eggs & Drag Breakfast Buffet.

Gay 90's • 408 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. • (612) 333-7755 • www.gay90s.com

Loring Kitchen & Bar

Right across from the east side of Loring Park, the Loring Kitchen & Bar near Downtown Minneapolis mounts its annual Pride Fest, with music and dancing on the outdoor stage: DJ Espada on June 28; DJ Bach, Mike 2600, and Jonathan Ackerman on June 29; and DJ King Otto and Jonathan Ackerman on June 30.

Loring Kitchen & Bar • 1359 Willow St., Mpls. • (612) 843-0400 • www.loringkitchen.com

Lush Food Bar

Lush Food Bar in Northeast Minneapolis hits its fourth anniversary during Pride Month. Things get under way on June 22 at the Pre-Pride Kick Off with Bryan Gerrard. DJ Paris presides over the Fur Baller Softball Team Fundraiser and Silent Auction on June 27. A live performance on June 28 spotlights Krissy Krissy and Sarah Conard. DJ Pornstar keeps everyone tired on their feet June 29 at the Fire and Ice Dance Party. It's the Battle of the DJs on June 30, with Chrystal Mann, Kris Holiday, SHIEK, and Naughty Boy.

Lush • 990 Central Ave. NE, Mpls. • www.lushfoodbar.com

Continued on page 34 ➔

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(Right) Lori Dokken and Erin Schwab. Photo by Ann Marsden
(Below) Roxxy Hall. Photo by Sophia Hantzes

Saloon

To launch Pride Week, the Saloon in Downtown Minneapolis hosts the Imperial Court of Minnesota's Pride Boat Cruise Preparty on June 23; afterward, the cruise departs aboard the *Minneapolis Queen* from Bohemian Flats near the University of Minnesota West Bank in Minneapolis. On June 25, cheer on the lovelies at the Ms. Saloon Gay Latino Pageant. Following the nearby Pride Festival, enjoy the longest-running Twin Cities Pride Block Party on June 30, showcasing Kerli ("Army of Love"), Pop Rocks, Esera Tuaolo ("Stronger"), Eric Himan ("You First"), and Karmin.

Saloon • 830 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. • (612) 332-0835 • www.saloonmn.com

Town House

The classic Town House in St. Paul's Midway, that city's oldest community bar, went gay in 1969, the year of Stonewall and FREE. Have fun there Pride Weekend with two live performances. On June 28, it's the perennially popular Roxxy Hall's Acoustic Showcase, with special guests Terrol & Jane, Leslee McKee, Jennifer Evans-Hall, Lee O., Nick Hall, and more, followed by DJ Stef spinning. On June 29, the incredible Erin Schwab and Lori Dokken entertain, plus the Baudilicious Band Boys & Backup Chicks. ▣

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Photo Credit Sophia Hantzes

***June 29th 9:30PM - 11:30PM
Erin Schwab & Lori Dokken "Live in concert"***



Photo Credit Ann Marsden

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PRIDE
TWIN CITIES

Bar Showcase

BY GEORGE HOLDGRAFER

eagleBOLTbar MAY 26



GAY 90's MAY 26





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FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY IN THE ANNEX





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PRIDE BEER DABBLER

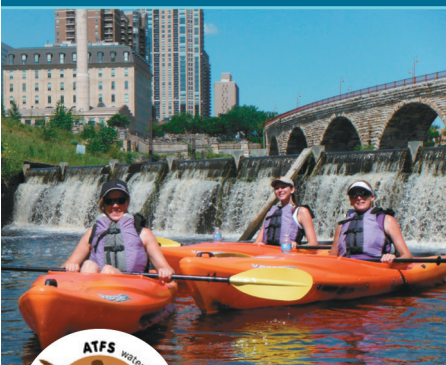
BY JOY SUMMERS

It's not a party until it's a party packed with some great food. After the huge success of last year's Beer Dabbler pairing of food trucks and craft brews with the biggest, gayest, best bash in the state, there was no question that we wanted to do it again. The event will be in Loring Park from 5:30 to 9:30pm on Friday, June 28th. Tickets are available for \$35 ahead of time (\$45 at the door, if it doesn't sell out). A ticket gets you entry to the event, entertainment, and beer samples. Food from the trucks is created expressly to pair with their brews and will cost \$3 extra for each dish.

While neither the trucks nor the breweries have committed to what they will be serving, here is a little intro to the breweries and the typical menu items found on these mobile food vendors menus.

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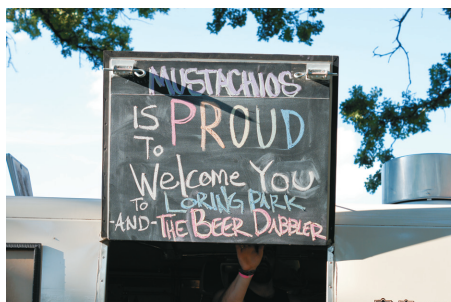
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Pairing the perfect drink with the perfect food can be a challenge for even the most seasoned aficionado. Take our word for it: these pairings offer something for everyone's palate. Beer Dabbler photos by Samantha Olson

Fulton Brewery: This brewery comes from a collection of college friends. It's hard to say anyone is having more fun than the guys (and ladies) at Fulton Brewery – and it certainly tastes that way. I've yet to sample a brew from them that isn't a fantastic summer sipper.

With:

Natedogs: These snappy wieners come from a man obsessed with great hot dogs. His are the best, full of pork flavor (from Pastures A Plenty Farm) and topped with made-from-scratch toppings, which often include mustards made with local craft brew. Expect some sassy condiments on a perfectly cooked dog.

Herkimer: These brews are crowd-pleasers. They've been serving their brews to the Uptown crowd with a flavor to serve every drinker's palate. They were around long before the brewpub sensation swept through the Twin Cities.

With:

Sassy Spoon: Food truck fare with a healthy twist. Sassy Spoon serves up the gluten-free goodies along with a vegetarian bent. Everything is made from scratch from a holistic registered dietitian. The best part is, healthy whole food that's good for you is actually quite delicious.

Third Street Brewhouse: From the golden hued Three Way, the roasted caramel colored Lost Trout and the Rise to the Top cream ale, Third Street Brewhouse creates a variety of beers created for pairing with great food.

With:

Brew Pub Pizza: Beer and pizza go together like peas and carrots; peanut butter and jelly; Laverne and Shirley; Adam and Steve – this pairing is a no-brainer. These are the Lotzza Motzza frozen pizzas you might have seen in your grocery store freezer.

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Slice

612 Brew: This new brewery in Northeast Minneapolis sports a huge Adam Turman mural and a unique layout where you can sip beers where they're made. (They're also working on a patio that should be stunning.) And then there are the beers, the R Rated is a combination of West Coast IPA meets Midwestern Rye, both light and complex or the Mary Ann, a knockout ginger-infused brew.

With:

Messy Giuseppe: The truck is named after the owners' grandfather (there's a cartoon of him on the side). It's also the name of their take on an Italian influenced sloppy Joe. This truck dishes Italian American classics, like a spicy giardiniera-topped hot Italian beef. This is comforting, filling food.

Flat Earth Brewing Co.: St. Paul's Flat Earth has crafted brews across the color spectrum, from their first brewed Belgian-style pale ale to the mocha-colored Cygnus x1 Porter.

With:

Foxy Falafel: Another beauty from the saintly city. Foxy's truck, nicknamed Roxy, serves her famous fried chickpea fritters – the eponymous falafel. Crunchy on the outside and packed with herby goodness on the inside, it's impossible not to fall in love at first bite.

Badger Hill Brewing: They don't call it their Every Day Ale for nothing. Badger Hill Brewing creates the types of beer that you want to keep close at hand and in the fridge at all time. These craft suds come from two brothers and they get along as well with food as they do each other.

With:

Potter's Pasties: A taste of England in the middle of America, Potter's Pasties (that's past not paste) serves this traditional miner's lunch straight from their truck or trailer. Flakey pie dough is wrapped around all manner of savory ingredients, from traditional beef with gravy to a delectable Thai curry.

Schell's Brewing Co.: New Ulm's elder statesman brewery leads by example for these young whippersnappers that are up and coming. From seasonal brews perfect for any day to neighborhood necessities like the Nordeast, these beers are like a great catch-up with old friends.

With:

Neato's Burgers: Inspired by the drive-in burgers from the Porky's of their youth, these friends banded together and created a new summer taste memory. A good, simple burger is made even better by their incredible, cravable French fries. They're cooked in duck fat and amazing enough to make you sing their praises. When dipped in garlicky aioli they are Ahhhh-maze-ING.

Finnegan's: This brewery does more than make good beer; they also do good for the community. They donate 100% of their profits to alleviate hunger locally.

With:

Stanley's on Wheels: This truck, from Stanley's bar in Northeast is a big enough fan of brew that they even have beer cans decorating the back of their truck. Serving pub fare like smoked beef brisket, which is available in both sandwich and nacho style.

Brau Brothers: Their beers have inspired a passionate following. I'd crawl over my bleeding mother for a pint of their smooth and creamy Moo Joos, an oatmeal stout delicious for breakfast, lunch, dinner or dessert.

With:

A Cupcake Social: Food trends may come and go, but these cupcakes are here to stay. Moist, rich, not too sweet, stocked with inventive flavors as well as beautifully executed classics, A Cupcake Social serves lovely little treats.

Summit: The original craft brew, Summit in St. Paul led the trend for all others to follow. One sip of a cold, classic, balanced Extra Pale Ale is likely to bring back a rush of warm summer memories.

With:

Taqueria La Hacienda: Hot griddled corn tortillas, packed with juicy meats, slow simmered and packed with seasonings, topped simply with

onions and cilantro. Delicious Mexican street eats in the heart of Minnesota.

Lift Bridge: Stillwater's Lift Bridge brews a sunny tasting summer beauty with their Farm Girl Saison.

With:

Hibachi Daruma: Serving Japanese-style griddled meats and chicken fried rice.

Fytenburg Brewing: European-style ales and lagers made in the former horse stables of St. Paul's Schmidt Brewery.

With:

RA Mac Sammy's: They've got other foods, but the specialty of this truck is their customizable mac and cheese. Pack it with bacon, caramelized onions, spicy peppers, tomatoes--anything your heart desires--or leave it classically plain. The power is in your hands.

Mankato Brewery: Bringing their brews up north for us straight from the Key City. Mankato Brewery revives the beer tradition with beer like their Organ Grinder Amber Ale or the Haymaker IPA.

With:

Bloomy's Roast Beef: Great food to pair with beer. The tender, slow-roasted beef from the Bloomy's truck is piled on a tender bun just waiting for a big bite to destroy it.

Harriet Brewing: Making this pocket of South Minneapolis a hopping spot for refreshing beers, their citrus tinged Sol Boch is beautiful on a sunny day.

With:

Mr. Mustachio's: This truck creates neighborhood flavor sensations atop different sausages from Kramarczuk's. Each perfectly suits their neighborhood like the Seward (vegan) or the Uptowner. What does Loring Park taste like?

Indeed Brewing: The very best local craft brew in cans brings their drinkable art in easy-to-carry containers. That their summer seasonal is called Shenanigans sounds too perfect a pairing for this big party.

With:

The Anchor Fish & Chips: Crispy battered cod the size of a baby's arm served with a proper English chip just screams for a pint. The beer might not be served in glass at this event, but the flavor magic remains.

Lucid Brewing: Straight out of Minnetonka, this brewery promotes "clarity of thinking and quality of drinking." Usually, we get foggy after a few frosty brews, but this promise might be worth exploring.

With:

AZ Canteen: Zesty fare from the king of Bizarre Foods, Andrew Zimmern. While the TV personality may not be actually in the truck, the food is inspired by the chef's travels, like a cabrito burger (ahem, goat) and a super spicy, crispy pork belly and green papaya salad.

Boom Island Brewing: Inspired by a Trappist ale, Boom Island's founder is admittedly obsessed with making perfect Belgian-style beer.

With:


Cajun to Geaux: Tastes of the bayou in the middle of Minnesota. Fiery jambalaya, crawfish boils and beignets, Chef Tim serves the food of his native land here in his adopted home.

Dangerous Man Brewing: A Northeast brewery so attractive to hipsters that even the logo sports the requisite facial hair. The beers have inspired all who have tasted them to return to the brewery for growler after growler of their beautifully crafted brews.

With:

Hola Arepa: This is one of the best trucks in the city. The arepa, griddled corn cakes packed with long-simmered ingredients, is a deceptively simple dish. A ridiculous amount of skill is needed to create such a perfect bite of delicious food from so humble of beginnings.

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With these pairings in your tool belt you can impress friends and colleagues with your vast knowledge at the Beer Dabbler. Photos by Samantha Olson

Bad Weather Brewing: Unexpected, untethered beer is the promise. These guys don't follow the traditional road and instead are forging ahead down their own path to delicious beer.

With:

Home Street Home: Just as the name implies, this truck cooks up from-scratch comfort foods. Home is where you find them parked.

Olvalde Brewing: From a modest brewery outside of Rollingstone, Minnesota, it doesn't get more quaint than this. The beer is hardly adorable, serious unfiltered ales are re-fermented in the bottle.

With:

Hot Indian Foods: Finally, the Indian food truck the town has been waiting for. The chicken tikka masala will spice up your life.

Excelsior Brewing Company: This employee-owned brewery is inspired by lake living. Perfect brews for a lazy summer afternoon.

With:

MidNord Empanadas: Blistered, crispy dough is wrapped around any number of fillings, rich beef; spicy, tender chicken – even mac and cheese or apple pie. All are lovely.

Surly Brewing: They play loud heavy metal in the brewery and they are not kidding about that name. What they care about is making fantastic beer. There's a reason this brewery inspires legions.

With:

The Motley Crew's Heavy Metal Grill: Born of a rekindled high school love, a devotion to hard rock, and a love of great food, this

truck brings straight-forward American foods that rock.

Blacklist Brewing: A sweet little gypsy operation, these beers come from an experienced brewer who isn't afraid to experiment with unconventional flavors, like a Belgian-style with rhubarb.

With:

Scratch: Fresh food with an Asian/Pacific Rim twist. They have crispy fried pork egg rolls and all kinds of sandwiches, like a spicy mock duck or a crispy fried chicken.

Big Wood Brewery: The name is as subtle as the brews they serve. (It's not that they're compensating for anything.) Fingers crossed that they're serving up a giant morning wood – it's a coffee flavored stout. What did you think I was talking about?

With:

Simply Steve's: Straightforward, simple food. You won't get infusions or froths from this truck. Instead, you will find a solid burger, slider, taco, and even the occasional pizza.

Northgate Brewing: From three passionate brewers in Northeast Minneapolis come these English-style ales, like the brown Wall's End or their traditional sweet stout, Maggie's Leap.

With:

Tiki Tim's: A taste of the tropics, this giant blue beauty serves some fantastic fish tacos, barbecue pork (with just a little pineapple), and deep fried pickles (aka frickles). Fricking awesome.

*The Beer Dabbler reserves the right to change the food truck and brewery pairings at any time. □

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Chef Sarah Master. Photo by Stephanie A. Meyer

PROFILE: CHEF SARAH MASTER

BY JOY SUMMERS

The third times proves to be just as charming as the first two. Gazing upon a beautiful spring plate of food from Sarah Master at Café Barbette it is impossible not to release a little gasp of excited anticipation. Head-on shrimp lounging on a plate, their little beady eyes beseeching, "Eat me!" They're nestled against a pillow of risotto, studded with the season's very first peas and a few sprigs of pea shoots. This is Sarah Master's third tour of duty in this kitchen and she is clearly working inside her comfort zone. It's a long way from the Iron Range, where she grew up, and even farther from New Orleans, where she found her passion as a chef and brought it back home to the line at Café Barbette.

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Shrimp with spring pea and corn risotto. Photo by Stephanie A. Meyer.

Sarah grew up in Penguilly, Minnesota, the daughter of two teachers. She attended Hibbing High School where she was on the high school hockey team. She went on to attend college at the University of Minnesota, where she continued to tend goal on the inaugural U of M women's hockey team. Somewhere in all that cold and ice, she decided it was time to head for warmer climates. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in 18th Century British Literature, she was primed for the restaurant business. "I thought that I would be an English teacher, but I needed to get a master's degree. So, I took a year off to party." She shakes her head at the memory.

She headed directly to Louisiana. To earn beer money, she at first worked in the front of the house. "I was a really bad server." She found a position working as a room service server in a hotel. Her station, waiting for orders, was in the kitchen, near the cooks. It wasn't long before the rhythm and hum of a professional kitchen got under

her skin. She wanted to work the line.

Instead of studying for that master's degree, she attended culinary school where she honed her classic French technique. Eventually, she found she missed her family. While fine dining restaurants are nonexistent on the range, she knew there were some great spots in the Cities. By this time, she had also gotten married. She lured her husband, who had grown up in Hong Kong, to the great, white north.

"The first day we moved back, it was 90 degrees. It was hot and humid. He went out and bought a shovel," she remembers. The story would be funnier were it not for the fact that you can still *buy* a shovel in Minnesota in August.

Her first job back was on the line at Barquette before James Beard Award-winning chef Alex Roberts at Restaurant Alma called and offered her a job, which she accepted. From there she helped Brenda Langton open Spoonriver before heading back to Barquette to work

Continued on page 50 ➞



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JOIN THE CONVERSATION



Quinoa salad with fresh fava beans with grilled radishes. Photo by Stephanie A. Meyer

the line with Landon Schoenefeld just before he branched out on his own. She left one more time, before being lured back for this stint.

Her brand of cooking is strongly influenced by her time in New Orleans; those are the flavors she loves – punchy spice, French technique, and taste that she then turns on its ear, throwing in unexpected elements. Where the traditional dishes have a lot of heavy flavors and tons of fat, her dishes are often light with nuanced flavors. It's a perfect fit for the neighborhood bistro, long known for their French-influenced menu (not to mention the addictive French fries). She works directly with local farms and growers, honoring the animals that they use, that every labored-over ingredient is treated well and beautifully served.

It's very different from the food she grew up with. She ate a lot of braised pork chops with sauerkraut – that was her birthday dinner. When asked what the first food she learned to cook with, she says she was really good at opening a can of Spaghetti-O's. When she does go home, she admits to the occasional Sammy's pizza, a thin crust, square-cut pie that haunts this Northern Minnesota girl's dreams as well.

While Chef Master's career seems to always come back to Café Barbette, she still dreams of opening her own place, some day. "When I grow up," she jokes. "There's comfort in brasseries, bistros – that place on the corner. [Cooking] upscale comfort foods – then twisting them over on their side." It certainly sounds plenty grown up to me. ■

NEWSY BITS



Our one-time cover model Chef Jim Christiansen has left UNION to open up his own place alongside Lori Zinter. She was front of house manager at La Belle Vie. Their **Heyday Café** will take up the old Sunnyside Up Café space as well as the laundromat next door.

Lowertown lunches are about to get sweeter. **The Buttered Tin** is coming from *Cupcake Wars* vet Alicia Hinze and restaurant PR guru Jen Lueck. Expect delicious drinks, pastries, and refined sandwiches. They're looking to open later this month.

Marin Bar and Restaurant will open in Le Méridien downtown Minneapolis on the 23rd. From the owner of Mill City Kitchen, their tagline is "Creative, health conscious cuisine that makes you feel great – not guilty."

Would you drive to Robinsdale for gourmet pizza? The guys behind the critically lauded Travail Kitchen and Amusements are betting on it. Phase one of their expansion has opened. **Pig Ate My Pizza** is running out of the old restaurant space. It's creative 'za, but the lack of air conditioning, deafening acoustics, and the forced intimacy of the communal seating might be a bit much for some Minnesotans to bear.

Also, please join me in raising a glass to toast the impending nuptials of **Kelly Hidlebaugh** and **Robbie Kearney**. The lucky couple won a free wedding at **Hell's Kitchen** – the first restaurant to jump up and excitedly wave their hands and offering their services the moment that marriage equality seemed like a very real possibility. This kind of costly solidarity reminds me how much I adore those lemon ricotta pancakes with a side of sausage bread.



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Emilie: *La Marquise du Chatelet Defends Her Life Tonight*. Photo courtesy of Theatre Pro Rata

EMILIE: LA MARQUISE DU CHATELET DEFENDS HER LIFE TONIGHT

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The Age of Enlightenment saw the beginnings of the modern consciousness which would pave the long, rocky road to women's equality. Theatre Pro Rata shines the light on 18th century French noblewoman, Emilie du Chatelet, who boldly broke ground by being a scientist. Director Carin Bratlie relates: "Emilie (Shanan Custer), was a fascinating woman. Her lover, Voltaire (Matt Sciple), wrote this about her soon after meeting her: 'You are beautiful / so half the human race will be your enemy / You are brilliant / and you will be feared / You are trusting / and you will be betrayed.' Everything he wrote about her came true. She turned 18th century gender roles on their heads and pursued science and mathematics regardless of what society said she should do. Lauren Gunderson's play has a lot of fun with that idea and Shanan portrays her as a person ahead of her time."

THE EFFECT OF GAMMA RAYS ON MAN-IN-THE-MOON MARIGOLDS

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The accomplished Gremlin Theatre will close its doors with a revival of one of the great plays of the 1960s and '70s era, and

perhaps American theater's consummate work about female-on-female emotional violence. Paul Zindel's Pulitzer Prize-winner probes the psychosis of a mother who cannot bide her precocious daughter's brilliance. Jodi Kellogg, a Lavender Magazine Best Actress, plays Beatrice, the mother. It's one of contemporary drama's most abusive characters and Kellogg is always a powerhouse so prepare for fireworks.

Director Ellen Fenster points out that "life has damaged Beatrice in a way that leaves her isolated and bitter. While she does her 'best' to mother Tillie (Caledonia Wilson) and Ruth (Eleonore Dendy), her anger and regret leak out in volatile, bizarre behavior that runs the risk of damaging her own daughters. Tillie, the younger, is a touching example of the textbook 'resilient child.' It is the attention of one adult in her life, her science teacher, that gives her a place to put her energy and hope. She cultivates a tenacious love of science that helps her block out the madness of her home and dream about a bigger, brighter world."

GLIMPSES OF PRIDE IN THE TWIN CITIES

Through July 3
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This display of GLBT artifacts and archival materials are from Ramsey County Historical Society's Leo Treadway Collection runs during the current Pride season, with another exhibit running in August. Twin Cities Pride celebrations since the 1970s are reflected on with photographs, buttons, clothing, and directories. Treadway, who has also loaned the exhibit some of his own items, shares "it is my hope that not only will GLBT individuals and allies be intrigued by some of the items in these exhibits, but that they will understand the importance of contributing to the archiving of current history. Too often we seem to believe that only items of extraordinary impact or value are worthy of contributing to one of our local collections. The truth is that it is the daily bits and pieces of our individual and organizational lives which really help to document our community and its rich history." Treadway hopes those who see the exhibits will consider what they themselves might contribute to further document our community history in local collections.

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The nation's flagship regional theater has turned 50 and lots of luminaries will be here to celebrate. They include: Whoopi Goldberg; Olivier-winner Tracie Bennett who played Judy Garland at the Guthrie; Guthrie veteran T.R. Knight whose gayness was homophobically slurred by his *Grey's Anatomy* co-star Isaiah Washington, and others. Jason Robert Brown (*Songs for a New World, Parade*) has composed a new work specifically for the

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War Horse. Photo by Brinkhoff/Mögenburg.

anniversary based on content from Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. Cantus vocal ensemble will perform. Guthrie legends Sally Wingert (*Third*) and Greta Oglesby (*Caroline, or Change*) will host a variety evening dubbed *Behold: A Gala Performance* on June 22.

Associate Artistic Director John Miller-Stephany, known for his stunning Big G revival of master gay playwright Tennessee Williams's *A Streetcar Named Desire*, says "the Guthrie champions diversity on stage and off. I'm delighted that in recent years GLBT voices have been clearly and frequently heard in the Guthrie's ongoing artistic conversations. A sampling of the plays and artists in the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 seasons alone include Jon Robin Baitz's *Other Desert Cities*, David Goldstein's *Skiing on Broken Glass*, Christopher Durang's *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, Lisa Peterson, Peter Rothstein, Jim Lichtscheidl, Micahel Hoover, Tarell Alvin McCraney, Andrew Cooke, Kelly McAndrew, Rachel Hauck and Wendy Goldberg. It was not by accident that our LED towers proudly displayed the colors of the rainbow on May 14 in honor of this great state's ratification of gay marriage!"



One Voice Mixed Chorus's Minnesota Voices. Photo courtesy of One Voice Mixed Chorus

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The beloved GLBTA chorus celebrates its 25th Anniversary with a tribute to Minnesota for nourishing and producing remarkable music. Bass singer Allan Warrior shares "what's special about this concert is the juxtaposition of the familiar with the unexpected – whether it's the fond memories of our state fair, the celebration of our choral heritage so warmly and lovingly displayed in *O My Love's Like a Red Red Rose*, or the exotic beauty of *Oi Dai* and *Nalaah* – those are from Minnesota! The music speaks to a Minnesota that's big enough for everyone, which to me, has always been the subtext of our mission – our devotion to building community and creating social change. We are the Minnesota chorus that has never removed the word 'Mixed' from its name and it's come to be one of the primary tools of our efforts to create social change. In concert after concert, we create a musical world that's appreciative and welcoming of all of us and all our differences, and filled with hope that the real world won't be that far behind. Despite certain persistent assumptions about Minnesota's homogeneity, we see in these song

selections from composers old and new, the same devotion to this welcoming mindset."

WAR HORSE

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War Horse bucks Broadway trends of recent years. Musicals have ruled supreme and the straight plays have tended toward realism. However, Nick Stafford's dramatization of Michael Morpugo's beloved novel for youth hails from Great Britain's National Theatre by way of Capetown, South Africa's Hand-spring Puppet Company. Before *War Horse* won five 2011 Tony Awards including Best Play on Broadway, it was London's hottest ticket and most acclaimed show. The tour now plays the Orpheum, a Hennepin Theatre Trust offering.

As we approach the 100th anniversary of World War I, *War Horse* is an ideal choice to commemorate and reflect. It focuses *not* on the people killed in 'The Great War' aka 'The War to End All Wars,' but on the horses who met their tragic ends. Boldly unlike most West End, and even more so, Broadway fare, *War Horse* is drama highly stylized. Protagonist Joey, a horse, is actually a hand-made puppet figure manipulated, navigated, and interpreted by three puppeteers.

Minnesota native Rob Lacqui plays Joey's hind. He clarifies something about puppeteers: "With any sort of performance art we're all actors. Our medium is just different. Technically, I'm in the hind. I operate the back, two legs, and the tail. The physical challenge of the work is demanding – to be able to support the weight of the puppet and to support the weight of the rider. Artistically, the challenge is to keep it live, keep it present, keep it real. Additionally challenging: you are on a team with two other people. Every horse team is made up of three separate puppeteer performers."

Hennepin Theatre Trust President/CEO Tom Hoch says "*War Horse* will take our audience on an incredibly moving journey of loyalty and friendship between Albert and his horse, Joey. The puppetry that brings this story to life is breathtaking. Within minutes of the curtain rising, you'll forget that the horses are also puppets!" □



Julie Childs

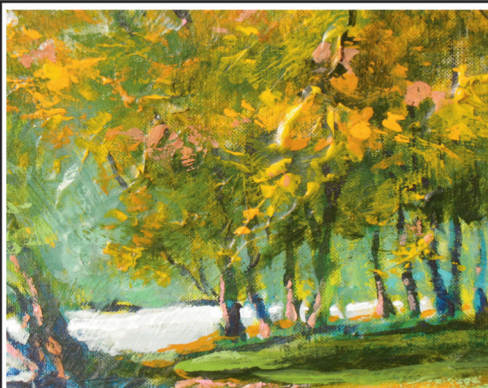
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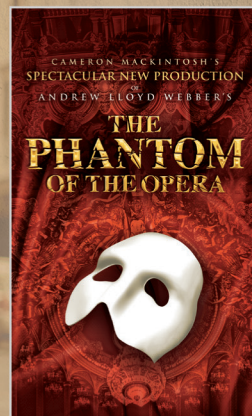
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GOPHERS, LYNX, AND GAME OF THRONES: AN INTERVIEW WITH JANEL MCCARVILLE

BY ANDY LIEN

Janel McCarville is back in Minnesota playing Center for the Minnesota Lynx. As part of the Golden Gophers, she and fellow Lynx Lindsay Whalen took the team to the Final Four in 2004 and have now been reunited in the WNBA. Catching her after a morning practice in Minneapolis, Janel gave me some fun answers to some random questions.

How long have you been back in Minnesota?

I originally was traded for on March 1. Between March 1 and May 5, I was here week-on/weekends-off to get acclimated to the new situation. [Lindsay] Whalen was here, coaching staff...so I got some interactions with them. Putting in early play calls so I was ahead of the curve in a way. Since May 5, I've been here nonstop.

Where are you living in the Cities?

St. Louis Park, over by the theaters...I've got the food there close by. It's a nice little situation.

What's your favorite part about being back in Minnesota?

I'm close to home. There's the familiar fan base. The great fans that I had through college still follow to this point and I've got friends in the area, too, for life outside of basketball.

How do you spend a day off?

Days off? You know, get some food...catch some movies. We don't really get much downtime. We're always on the move with appearances, games, practices, things like that...so when we get a day off, I really like to put the feet up and relax.

Okay, so what's your ideal veg-out scenario at home?

Feet up, watching *Game of Thrones*.

NICE. Who's your favorite *Game of Thrones* character?

I don't know! I really like Khaleesi [Daenerys Targaryen] but I didn't like the whole situation, how it started, that was messed up. But then she whupped some ass and dominated. But the thing about that show is that everybody betrays everybody. They're all go-

ing to die at some point.

Okay, so your feet are up, you're watching *Game of Thrones*, what are you ordering in for food?

I would order in pizza.

Thin crust or thick crust?

It depends. There is a time and a place for everything. If it's thin crust, it's not about a place as much as it has to be cheese, sausage, mushroom, and onion—maybe some pepperoni. If it's deep dish or thicker, probably Pizza Hut Stuffed Crust—and it'd be pepperoni.

You were recently playing in Turkey. What was the biggest difference between there and here?

All seafood still has the heads on. It's not that big a deal, but you catch it in the river and it's still got its head on. After you pan-sear it and the eyeballs are popping out and still looking at you, it's a little bit of a change. That's one thing.

Now that you're back in Minnesota, are there any familiar faces you're looking forward to seeing or playing against?

There are a couple of people throughout the league who I haven't seen for a while because I haven't played for a while, so I'm looking forward to seeing them. But at the same time, that's going to be after the game. Leading up to the game, it's all about focus for the game. Until the horn blows and the game's over, we're kind of enemies in my eyes.

What do you think is going to happen this season?

What I *hope* will happen is that we bring a Championship back to Minnesota. It's hard to say, though. There are a lot of

great teams in the league, great players...and obviously each team sets out to win the Championship, so you've got your work cut out for you night in, night out.

Last question: Are you seeing someone?

I'm seeing someone.

So you're off the market.

I'm off the market. [Laughs.] She'll be happy to hear that. □



Janel McCarville. Photo by Sophia Hantzes



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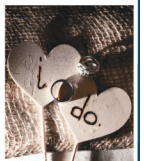
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With the legalization of marriage for all couples in Minnesota, Lavender included a large wedding and marriage section in this year's Pride Issue.

It's time to CELEBRATE:

p. 62 Happily Ever After:
Real couples make their wedding dreams come true

p. 80 Wedding Resources:
How you can make your wedding dreams a reality

p. 88 In the Shadow of James Buchanan:
Becoming a Grown Up... with a Hyphen

p. 92 After Marriage:
Stories Crying to be Told

p. 94 Marriage in Minnesota:
A Retrospective



As seen on the cover, Paul Melchert and James Zimmerman with their sons, Emmett and Gabriel, stole the hearts of marriage equality supporters across America. Whether at a press conference talking about the beauty and capability of same-sex couples raising children or on the steps of the Capitol as love became the law, this family became an icon for marriage equality...as well as the leveling agent of a kid driving a toy car across a parent's face at an inopportune moment.



Happily Ever After

Wedding dreams are realized by three couples at the Van Dusen Mansion in Minneapolis. Draw inspiration for your own special day from these pages and see more online at www.LavenderMagazine.com.

Feature Producer and Creative Director: Julie Lyford,

Fabulous Functions

Feature Editor: Andy Lien

Feature Assistant: Shane Lueck

Andrew Vetrone and Michael Fischer

Photo by James Ramsay

Andrew and Michael are wearing Jos A.

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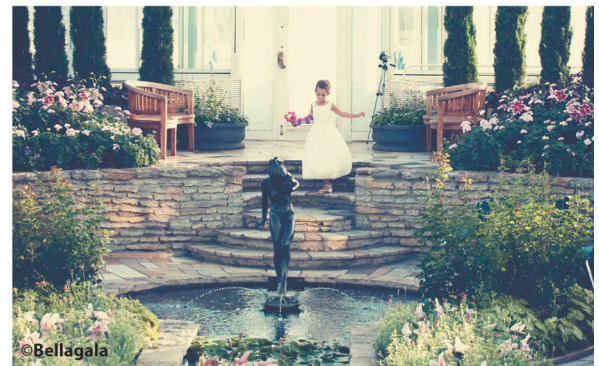
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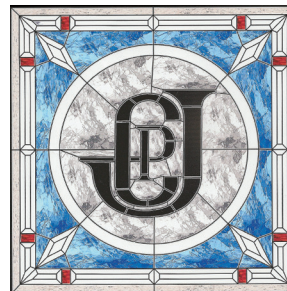
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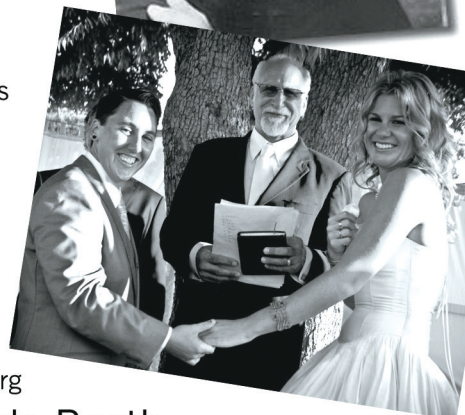
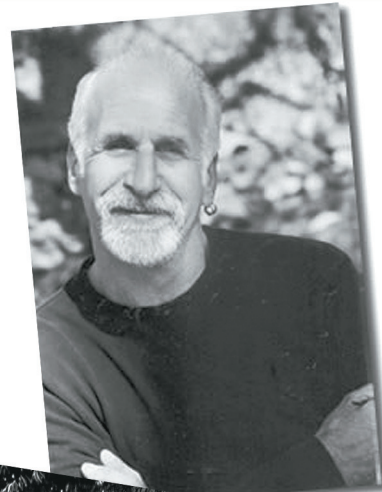
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BY SHANE LUECK

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(Beaded backdrop in photo by Avant Décor)



Photo by Donae Cotton Photography

Continued on page 82 ➔



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Wedding Resources

BY SHANE LUECK



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Donae Cotton Photography

The South Africa-born Donae Cotton describes her services as "sassy photography with a whimsical twist." With a passion for weddings, Cotton whole-heartedly adores being able to tell your wedding story through pictures. Staying friends with her brides, Cotton loves watching their lives change right before her eyes through maternity sessions, newborn sessions, kids birthdays and more. Adventurous in her art, it's not unusual to see Cotton on her belly in order to achieve a great photo.

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Continued on page 84 ➔



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— Wedding Resources —

BY SHANE LUECK



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Alice-Lynne Olson, Floral Artist

As one of the first non-retail floral design studios in Minneapolis in the early '90s, Alice-Lynne has proven her entrepreneurial prowess and her goal to create a professional atmosphere for clients has paid off. She has become one of the most well-known independent floral designers in the area, winning numerous awards. Equipped with what she deems a quirky design aesthetic, professionalism, and an appreciation for the care and handling of flowers have made her a self-professed "flower geek."

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Continued on page 86 ➔



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Wedding Resources

BY SHANE LUECK



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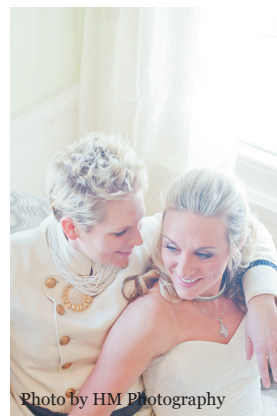


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Uy-Lennon Flower & Design

Whether they be in a garden, growing wild, or professionally grown, flowers are the passion and inspiration for Terri Uy-Lennon. A love for all things floral began over 30 years ago when Terri, as a child, was drawn to anything in bloom – an interest which eventually translated to gardening and learning about the botanical wonders of the world around her. Her career in flowers began seven years ago after doing flowers for her own wedding.

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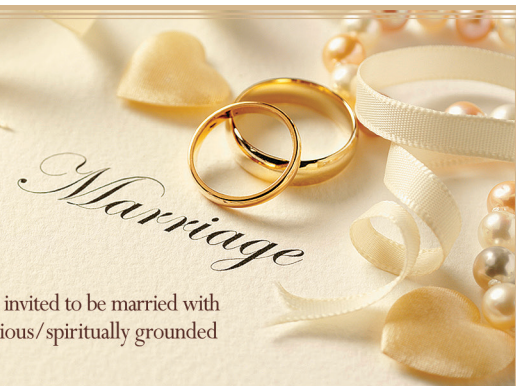
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Newlyweds Brian Harper-Tibaldo and Brian Tibaldo, Jr. Photos by Angie Elkins

IN THE SHADOW OF JAMES BUCHANAN: BECOMING A GROWN UP...WITH A HYPHEN

BY BRIAN HARPER-TIBALDO

I was 20 years old in 1999 when I stood as the best man at my sister's wedding. It only made sense that I play the part; she was marrying one of my best friends and I had introduced them. I was still in the closet in those days, and as we were packing things up after the ceremony I remember my mom pointing to various items and saying, "Let's keep that for when Brian grows up and gets married." It wasn't a slight. She hadn't meant to imply that I lacked maturity. It's just something people say: "someday... when you grow up... and get married." When you're young, those

two states of being can seem symbiotic because marriage is often perceived as society's benchmark for the passage into adulthood.

For GLBT folks who came of age in the late '90s, getting married wasn't on the horizon. That ceremonial springboard into being-a-grown-up wasn't something we thought about much in those days, when the community was focused on non-discrimination more than full inclusion.

As marriage equality began creeping into the national conversation over the past decade, I supported it but somehow I didn't

see myself on the inside. The wall between me and "when you grow up and get married" hadn't come down yet. Then I met Brian.

From the very beginning it wasn't like other relationships. It began unexpectedly and evolved quickly. A year into dating, the debate about Minnesota's constitutional amendment flared up, and suddenly it was extra personal not just because I was gay, but because I knew who I wanted to marry. Sometime during that politically charged summer we decided to get engaged.

From that point on it was real, but it was

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still the future. We talked about living arrangements, dates, places, ideas, who to invite, how much to spend. But there was no immediacy and not much hurry. After all, we were young(ish) and had a long time to think about it.

Early this spring, the timeline changed a bit when the company I worked for downsized and I was laid off. For the first time I was thinking about my future in very grown-up terms. Could I support my family? Would this impact our wedding plans? What if we had to move? I couldn't have asked for a better partner than Brian. Not only was he reassuring and comforting, he suggested we start thinking about the wedding sooner rather than later. So we did.

The planning was fast and the event was simple. We both decided not to let a preconceived understanding of "traditional weddings" impact ours. Brian wanted something simple, outdoors, maybe near a fountain. As a history buff, I wanted a location that had historical significance. We picked Washington DC. It's legal there, and since I'm fundamentally opposed to the various states getting to pick and choose on this issue, a federal district seemed like a fun way to make our own statement. If we'd known Minnesota was so close, we might have waited a few months, but then again maybe we wouldn't have.

The details all came together pretty seamlessly. We found a wedding planner to officiate for us and she helped us pick a location. We wrote our vows on a Sunday morning over coffee/Diet Coke (coffee for me, Diet Coke for Brian), bought our plane tickets, and made a whole trip out of the event. "We're getting married on our honeymoon," we started to joke.

It amounted to about a week in DC, and we did all the standard things that tourists do in the nation's capital. We saw all the expected monuments and the Smithsonian. We trekked through Arlington National Cemetery to visit the grave of Jackie Onassis—something I've always wanted to do (... apparently she's buried next to some president?). The bus tour of the Pentagon was, uhm, interesting; I recommend it only if you're into really big parking lots.

We stayed in a variety of places though our favorite was DuPont Circle. For reasons I don't yet understand we decided that renting a car would be a good idea. It wasn't. The outlying areas and the beltway weren't too bad, but driving inside the District is chaotic and left me with a strong desire to go find the person who laid out the streets and



explain to him the virtues of a right angle! You know you're in trouble when the voice on the GPS says: "Enter roundabout. Then take the Ninth. Exit."

Our ceremony was Wednesday, April 24th, midway through the weeklong trip. We chose Meridian Hill Park in the Columbia Heights neighborhood of DC because it's outside of the touristy areas. The park is home to one of the world's largest water fountains, which we planned to marry in front of. Sadly, the fountain wasn't running on our wedding day. Apparently parks in the District are under Congressional jurisdiction, and funding for upkeep had recently been sequestered. But it didn't spoil our day. Also at Meridian Hill is a shockingly large statue of President James Buchanan, whom most historians believe was gay. The irony of that fact didn't go unnoticed as we posed for pictures beneath the towering bronze likeness of our 15th commander-in-chief.

My sister flew out from Boise, Idaho, and a cousin who lives in DC joined us along with her husband. So our wedding party was only six people (if you include the preacher and us) but it was just what we wanted. I used a ring that belonged to my great-grandfather, a family heirloom I've had for years but never expected to find utility in. Brian used his dad's wedding ring. My sister cried (just like I did at her wedding), and Brian and I both choked up a bit during the vows, which we recited beside the waterless fountain—sequester-be-damned.

Then there was that sentence at the end: "By the authority vested in me by the District of Columbia, I now pronounce you legally

married." And that was it. The threshold had been crossed.

My parents weren't able to be there due to my mother's health, but they called me immediately following the ceremony. Mom told me how proud she was of me and how happy she was to have a new son-in-law. We both cried. I was struck by the notion that no matter how much events or rituals might make you feel like a grown up, there are moments in life when you just need to talk to your mom.

Ever since that day, Brian and I have been joking about how it doesn't really feel all that different. He still goes to work every day; I do homework and look for a job; and Sunday morning chats over coffee/Diet Coke continue to feel special. We still say "I love you" at the end of phone conversations and get excited by random text messages from each other. But it is different. It's in the present now. Instead of beginning sentences with "*Someday, when we get married...*" we end them with "*...when we buy a bigger house*" or "*...if we ever have kids.*" When Gov. Dayton signed marriage equality into law three weeks after our wedding, it felt almost like he was doing so exclusively for us.

We discussed at length what to do with our names after the wedding, again trying not to let the rest of the world dictate our decision. Since we have the same first name, having the same last name felt complicated. Also, Brian is a junior, named after his father who died when Brian was a baby. The common name is the only real connection he has to his dad and I couldn't ask him to give that up. So we settled on a hyphen for me. Harper-Tibaldo... I've almost gotten used to saying it and when signing my name I still smile involuntarily. I like the fact that I carry a piece of him with me all the time.

Overall, it was just as memorable as I knew it would be. I was sad that our parents couldn't attend, but they're all hoping to come to our reception if we ever get around to planning one (Note to self: Get on that!).

For the last few weeks we've been seeing people we know get engaged (mostly on Facebook). As our friends start to marry, I'm excited to share advice or words of wisdom and to see how others plan their event, knowing that our wedding was unique, and theirs should be too. I suppose I do feel older now—more mature, ready for the future, united. And in more ways that I can explain in print, I'm happier than I ever thought I'd be.

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STORIES CRYING TO BE TOLD

BY POLLY KELLOGG

I sobbed in the car as I was driving to the Capitol for the gay marriage vote. My tears were about my lifetime of amorphous gay pain that was suddenly safe to feel and let out. On the Capitol steps, I ran into Patrick Scully, who reminded me of a gay speakers bureau I offered to the public schools 1978. It attracted the attention of Jerry Falwell's national evangelical propaganda mill. The schools cancelled it, and in this process I had to testify at the Board of Education to explain that our speakers bureau would not recruit or molest children. I felt alone and on trial, and the fear dampened my politics for years.

In the hours of waiting for the vote, I was surprised that everyone I talked to wanted to tell stories about the hard times. A straight acquaintance described the recent suicide of a middle-aged man trying to deny being gay. A cheerful man I'd never met volunteered that he'd had shock treatments in the 1960s and then went through seminary in the closet. A woman described a mother's coming out on her death bed to her children. In the afternoon, after the Capitol was emptying, a woman sat in the glorious sunlight on the steps and told stories of being humiliated for her androgyny. It was very clear that the relief of this cultural shift is allowing us to process pain we have held inside for many lonely decades. Now it wants to

come out in the sunshine.

We have a collective history of tremendous cultural abuse and it needs our collective attention. Sharing stories honors our realities and is guaranteed to release new energy. Also if we don't want decades of backlash to this vote, as sadly happened with the legalization of abortion, we need to let others know how difficult society has made our lives. People need to know in their guts why this was the right decision.

A project to begin on-going gatherings to share stories has already begun. The Facebook event says *"TELLING QUEER HISTORY is a series of gatherings based on sharing stories in an open, informal, and participatory format...The goal is to exchange our personal stories in order to add to the collective history of queer folks."* The pilot was June 9 at Madame of the Arts, 3401 Chicago Ave. S., and more will be happening. Watch for a Facebook group and contact rjlawrencephotography@gmail.com to join and to help shape this project. If you have other ideas, contact her or me, pkellogg@stcloudstate.edu (I'm a retired Minnesotan). We need many discussion groups like this, also writers groups and video projects to collect our precious history and release our precious tears. □



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PHOTOS BY SOPHIA HANTZES / WRITTEN BY SHANE LUECK

Marriage equality in Minnesota has been in development ever since 1970 when Jack Baker and Michael McConnell first applied for a marriage license. Since then, Minnesota has been chipping away at the road blocks one step at a time until finally, on May 14, 2013, marriage equality was signed into law to take effect August 1, 2013.



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Jack Baker and Michael McConnell

At the time Jack Baker and Michael McConnell applied for a marriage license on May 18, 1970, state law did not mention gender with regard to marriage. October 15, 1971, saw the Minnesota Supreme Court ruling that same-sex couples do not have the right to marry under Minnesota Law Baker v. Nelson, a case which would not be heard by the United States Supreme Court a year later, as of October 10, 1972. Recent activism includes attempting to file a joint tax return in 2003 as an amendment to their individual tax return in 2002, using their original marriage license issued in Blue Earth County. Photo: 2002.

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Photo by Sophia Hantzes

Sharon Kowalski and Karen Thompson

Sharon Kowalski lived with her partner Karen Thompson in St. Cloud for four years, having exchanged rings and naming each other as insurance policy beneficiaries. On November 13, 1983, Kowalski suffered severe brain injuries in an automobile accident, leaving her with permanent physical disabilities and a drastically decreased mental capacity. Following the accident, Kowalski's father was granted full guardianship custody and refused visitation rights to Thompson, leading to a court case acrimoniously drawn out over several years, eventually finding in favor of Thompson in the 1991 decision of 'In re Guardianship of Sharon Kowalski, Ward.' Photo: 2011.



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Allan Spear (pictured with partner Junjiro Tsuji)

Allan Spear was one of the first openly gay Americans in elected office, serving on the Minnesota Senate from 1973-2001. In addition, Spear was the first openly gay Senator to be elected President of the Senate by his peers. Gay rights were thrust into the mainstream of human rights activists after Spear established the Minnesota Committee for Gay Rights. Spear was also instrumental in passing the 1993 Minnesota Human Rights Act, which guaranteed protection from discrimination in education, employment, and housing for GLBT Minnesotans. Spear passed away in 2008. Photo: 2007.



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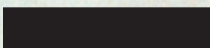


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Arne Carlson

As a Republican Governor from 1991-1999, Arne Carlson signed a revised Human Rights Act into law in 1993. These revisions included protection not only on the basis of sexual orientation, but also gender identity and expression. The Human Rights Act became the basis of the marriage equality bill recently signed into law. Photo: 2004.





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Senator John Marty

In 1997, when the legislature and governor passed the Defense of Marriage Act in Minnesota, Senator John Marty was not only one of a handful of senators to oppose it, but also spoke publicly against it. A strong proponent of marriage equality, Marty introduced legislation to the Minnesota Senate in 2008, 2009, and 2011 pushing for gender neutrality in marriage laws at a time when many argued it was premature. Photo: 2009.

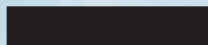


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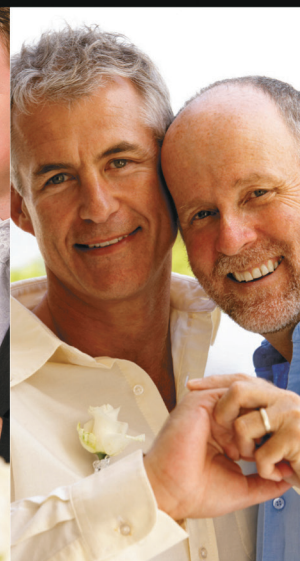


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Photo by Sophia Hantzes

Marry Me Minnesota: Doug Benson and Duane Gajewski

In June of 2008, three same-sex couples decided to stop waiting for someone else to do something about the discrimination they were facing and Marry Me Minnesota was born. Doug Benson and Duane Gajewski are one such couple, the two of whom have been together for 22 years. While pursuing legal recourse in *Benson v. Alvenson* in 2010 to do away with the Defense of Marriage Act, Benson has also been a stalwart presence at the Capital protesting to advance marriage for same-sex couples nearly every day that the House and Senate have been in session since 2007. Photo of Doug and Duane: 2009; Photo of Doug: 2009.

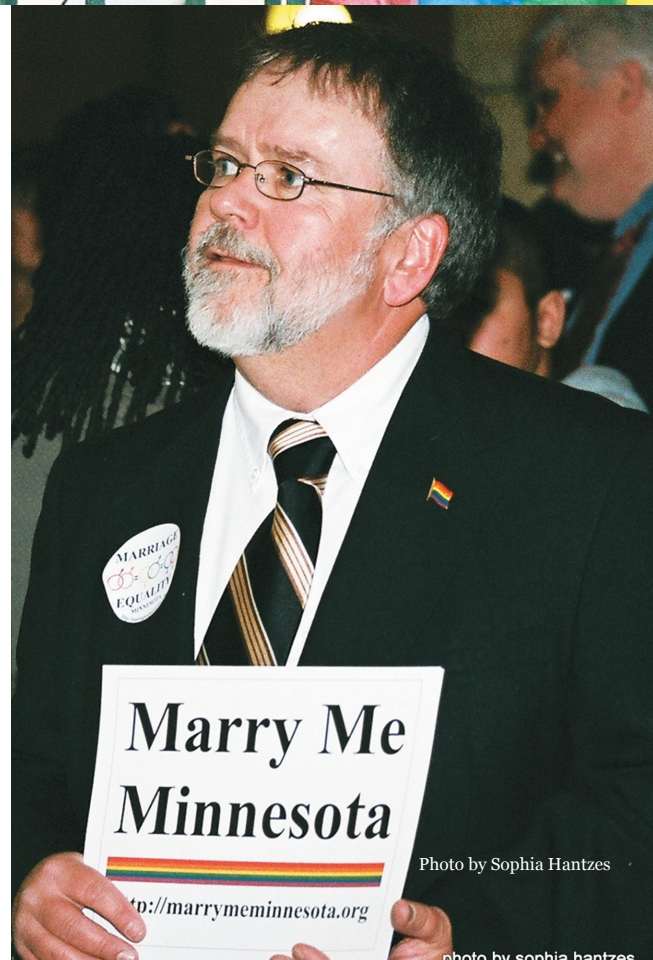


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Michael Bayly

As the Executive Coordinator for Catholics 4 Marriage Equality, Michael Bayly speaks on behalf of many as a David to the Catholic Church's Goliath. With a mission to answer the call of the Gospel's message of inclusion and compassion, Bayly's Roman Catholic organization advocates for civil marriage for everyone, regardless of sexual orientation. Following Jesus' call for social justice, Bayly is passionate that marriage equality is a fundamental human right because of his Catholicism at a time when the Catholic Church expressed just the opposite. Photo: 2010.

Photo by Sophia Hantzes



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Dale Carpenter

As Earl R. Larson Professor of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Law at the University of Minnesota Law School, Dale Carpenter specializes in constitutional law, the First Amendment, and sexual orientation and the law. Carpenter is a frequent commentator on issues surrounding same-sex marriage on television, radio, and in print, hearings and testimonies. He also writes a regular column, "OutRight," for several gay publications across the United States. Photo: 2010.



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Photo by Sophia Hantzes

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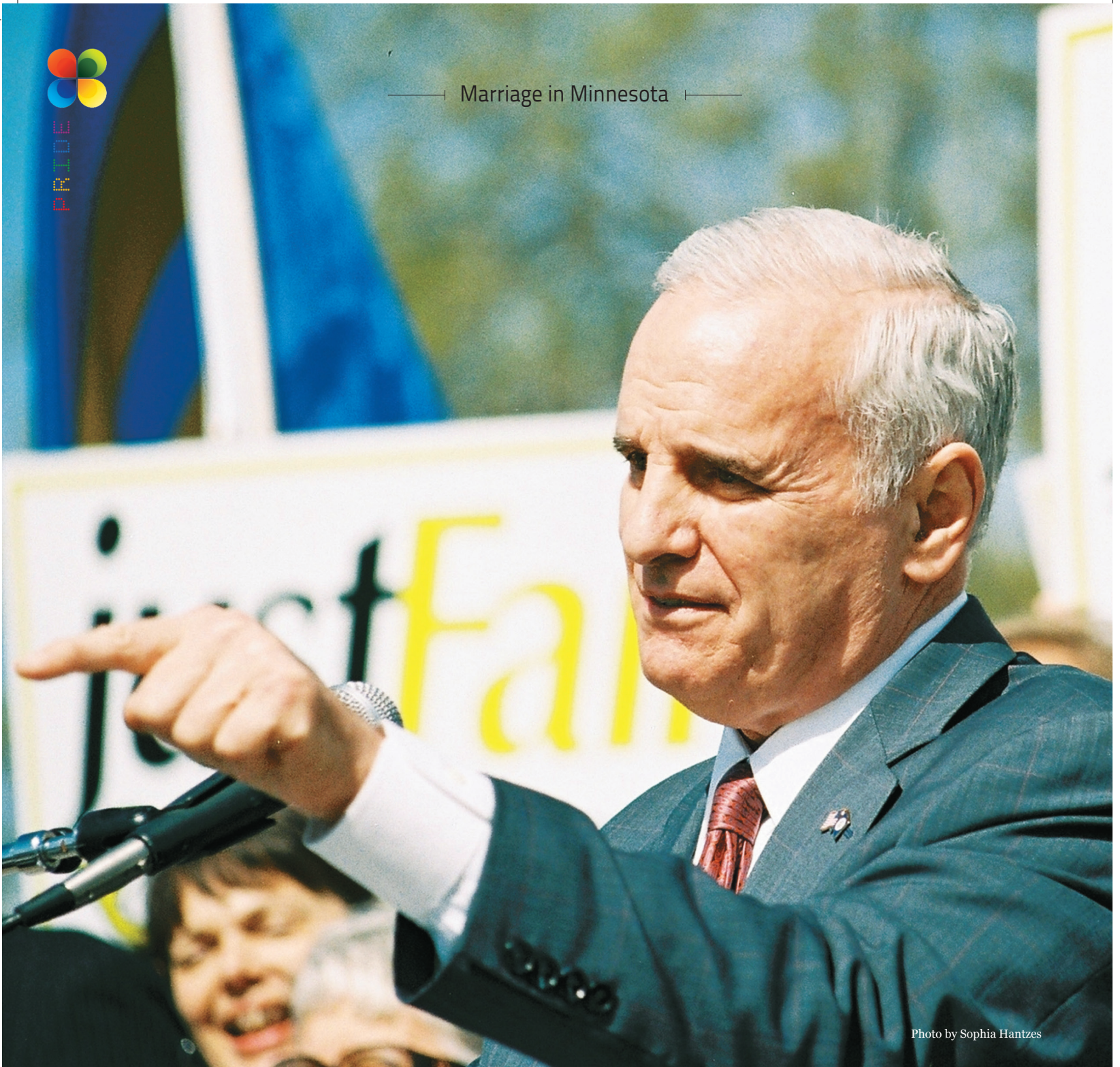


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Governor Mark Dayton

As the first Minnesota governor to march in a Pride parade in 2011, Governor Mark Dayton signed marriage equality into law on May 14, 2013, to take effect on August 1, 2013.

Photo: 2012.



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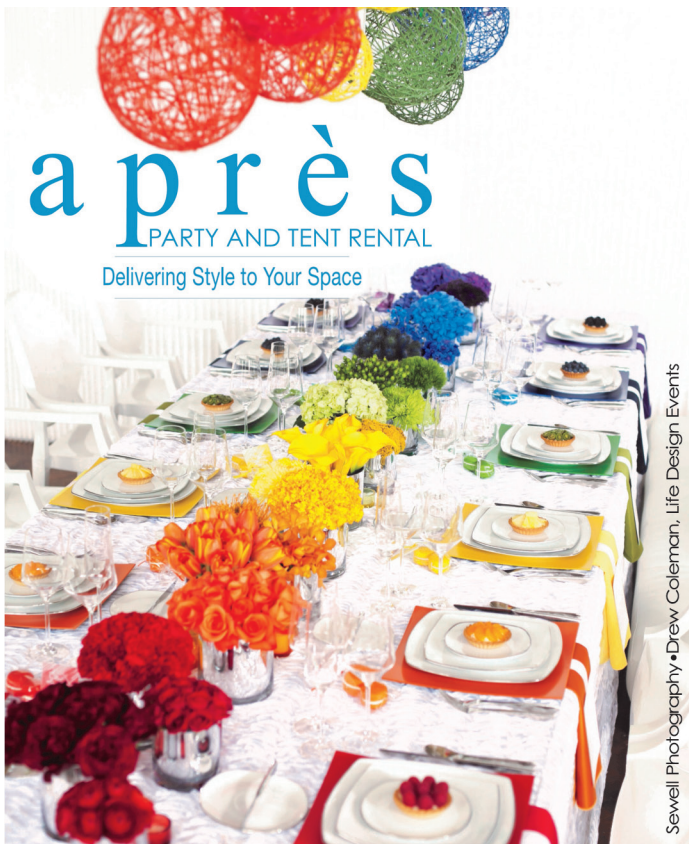
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BIGGAYNEWS FROM NEW MEXICO:**St. Pius X Transgender Student Skips Graduation**

ABQ Journal reports that transgender student Damian Garcia elected to stay home after the school told him he had to wear a white robe, that worn by girls, instead of the black worn by male students. Garcia, who was born a girl, opted to skip the graduation ceremony after the school and archdiocese held firm to their decision even in the face of overwhelming support for Garcia. Garcia thanked everyone for their support on his Facebook page, saying: "I'm fully respecting this and myself by not walking and/or attending the ceremony at all."

BIGGAYNEWS FROM MINNESOTA:**Largest Minnesota Counties To Make Same-Sex Marriage License Applications Available June 6**

The *Star Tribune* reports that next Thursday, same-sex couples in Minnesota can take the first legal step toward stomping the glass, jumping the broom and kissing the bride/groom. Couples seeking licenses in Hennepin, Washington and Ramsey counties will be able to apply for them as soon as the service centers open for business on June 6th, with the first marriages being able to be performed on August 1st.

BIGGAYNEWS FROM MASSACHUSETTS:**Middleborough Teen Becomes High School's First Transgender Prom Queen**

MyFOXBoston.com reports that a Middleborough High School girl became the town's first transgender prom queen Tuesday. Cody Tubman, who came out her freshman year to her mother and began dressing as a female during her sophomore year, said that she had been pleasantly surprised by the

acceptance she found among other students in the school. Principal Paul Branagan echoed that sentiment, saying: "This is a community and a school community in particular that is very accepting and I think that's a true testament to that."

BIGGAYNEWS FROM WASHINGTON, DC:**White House Highlights Karen Clark As A "Harvey Milk Champion Of Change"**

InsightNews.com reports that on Wednesday, May 22nd, the White House honored Karen Clark as one of ten openly GLBT elected or appointed officials who are "Harvey Milk Champions of Change." The event, which fell on Milk's birthday, recognizes individuals who have demonstrated commitment to both equality and public service. Clark, a Minnesota State Representative, was elected to the Minnesota House in 1980, and has the distinction of being the longest serving openly gay or lesbian legislator in the country.

BIGGAYNEWS FROM CALIFORNIA:**Lutheran Assembly Elects First Openly Gay Bishop**

USA Today reports that the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America has elected its first openly gay bishop. The Reverend R. Guy Erwin, currently serving as pastor at Faith Lutheran Church in Canoga Park, California and who is also a professor of Lutheran confessional theology at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks, California was elected at a church annual assembly on May 31st. Reverend Erwin, who is part Osage Indian and the first Native American to be elected, stated: "I know that many will see my election as a significant milestone for both GLBT people and Native Americans, and I pray that I can be a positive representation for both communities." □



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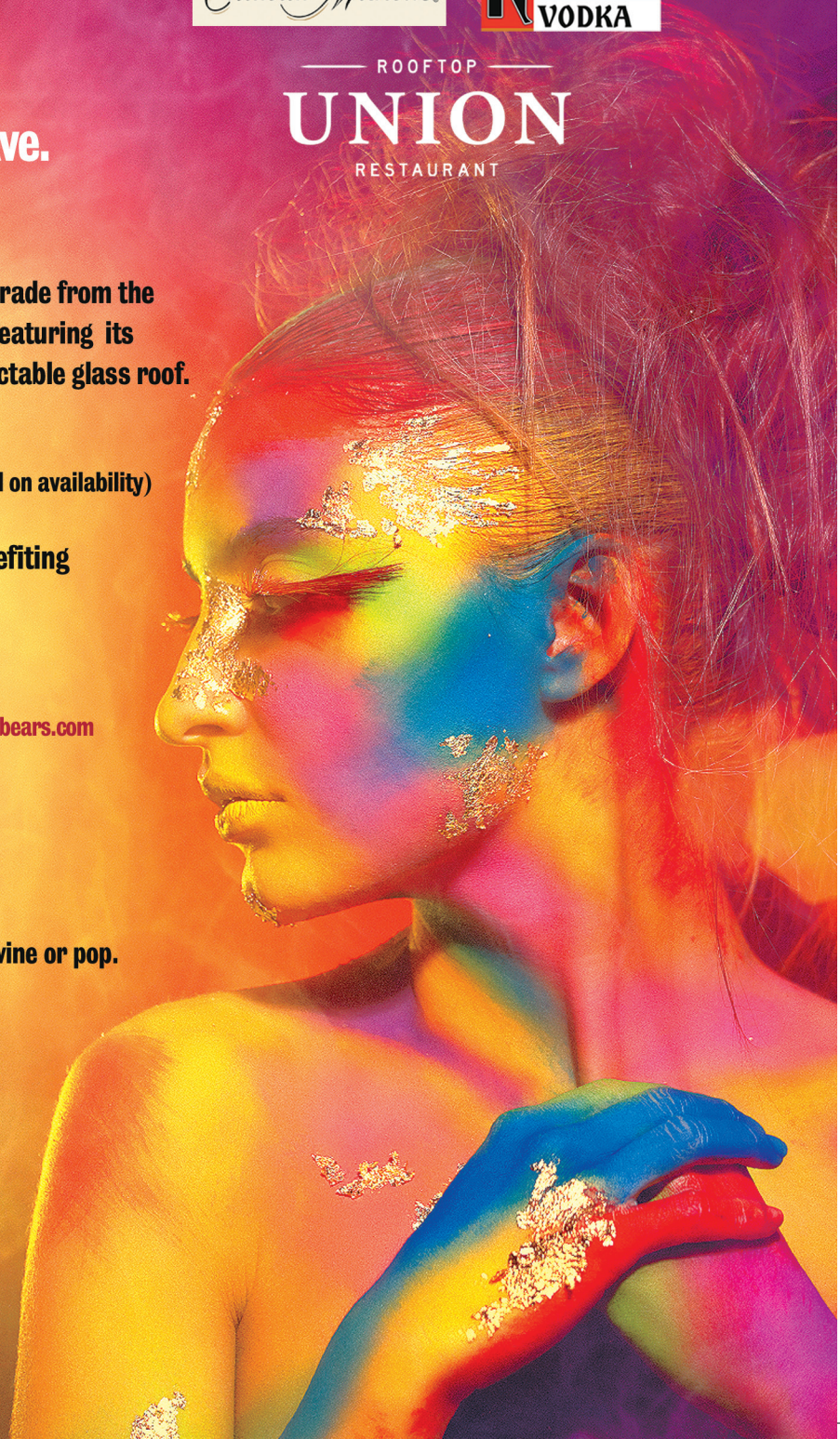
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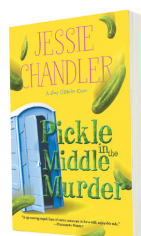
Books

BY E.B. BOATNER



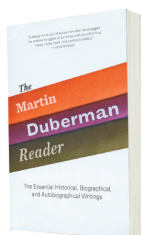
YOU GOT TO BE KIDDING!: THE CULTURAL AR-SONIST'S SATIRICAL READING OF THE BIBLE
Dr. Joe Wenke - Trans Uber LLC

Wenke bills *Kidding* as a “satirical reading” of the Bible. Yes, his language is snarky and irreverent, but as Anna Russell used to say in her famous take-offs on Wagner’s Ring cycle, “I’m not making this up, you know.” No matter how the fundamentalists want to praise the sanctity of a marriage between one man and one woman, which they claim is borne out by biblical injunction, Wenke points to Solomon’s 700 wives and 300 concubines, noting that while God resented their foreignness, He was cool with the numbers. Wenke takes the reader through Old and New Testaments, wittily and wisely, time after time drawing out the reaction (as in the cherry-picking possibilities of Leviticus and other books), “Oh, really?” Gisele Xtravaganza graces the cover.



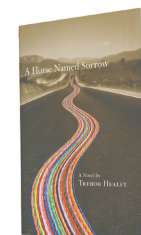
PICKLE IN THE MIDDLE MURDER: A SHAY O'HANLON CAPER
Jessie Chandler - Midnight Ink - \$14.99

A Renaissance Fair treat turns to murder, murder most foul, committed in a Porta privy. Worse yet, her lover, officer JT Bordeaux, is charged with the killing. The usual gang rallies round to find the real killer—friends Coop and Eddy, hounds Dawg and Bogey—but the atmosphere in Chandler’s third caper is darker and more intense. Corpse Russell Krasski was a child trafficker with an unsettling connection to JT, and while sleuthing, Shay finds evidence that questions JT’s fidelity. Mainstay Rocky drops a bombshell—he is to wed his love Tulip—but that knot is not tied in this installment. Now, with marriage available to all Minnesotans, what might we expect for volume four? Something tasty, no doubt, topped with a pickle—and relish.



MARTIN DUBERMAN READER: THE ESSENTIAL HISTORICAL, BIOGRAPHICAL, AND AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL WRITINGS
Martin Duberman - \$21.95 - The New Press

Duberman is the author of many books on many topics, from non-fiction (*The Worlds of Lincoln Kirsten; Stonewall; About Time: Exploring the Gay Past*) to fiction (Haymarket) and drama (*Male Armor: Selected Plays, 1968-1974*). The collection covers a lifetime of Duberman’s writings, well known for their historicity and attention to the individual experience, as exemplified here in “The Stonewall Riots.” All of these pieces have been previously published, yet the excerpts are strong enough to stand on their own and illuminate Duberman’s half a century of working for social change in many areas, times he has lived through and observed firsthand. Whether you are familiar with or new to Duberman’s writing, this volume provides valuable, insightful reading and will point the way to further exploration.



A HORSE NAMED SORROW
Trebor Healey - Terrace Books - \$26.95

San Francisco in the 1980s-1990s seems further removed in time than it is in literal years; closer to the massacre at Wounded Knee, one of the novel’s themes, than our present days. Narrator Seamus Blake, twenty-one, meets a newcomer to San Francisco and experiences a rush of hope. Handsome Jimmy Keane, fresh from Buffalo, New York, on his string-bedecked bicycle, may be the love and salvation that Seamus (or “Shame” as Jimmy aptly nicknames him) has been seeking. But like many thousands during that time, Jimmy falls ill and dies after making Seamus promise to “Take me home the way I came.” Seamus sets out on the bike with Jimmy’s ashes in a purple velvet bag on this lyrical odyssey of love and loss. □

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GAY VET REACHES OUT

BY PAM COLBY

Erik Holmgren is a military vet with a mission. He wants to help other veterans, especially new amputees and gay veterans. He has had more obstacles in life than most, yet feels his struggles have made him a better person. He states, “the challenges in my life didn’t come to destroy me, they have pushed me forward to realize my hidden potentials.”

Raised on a turkey farm in central Minnesota, his parents were of Swedish ancestry and followed a fundamentalist evangelical faith. “In the 5th grade I realized there was something different about me, I was gay, but I didn’t really know what it meant. I never talked to anybody about it,” he recalls.

Holmgren made plans to join the Air Force during his senior year of high school. Two months after graduation he was stationed in Southern California, “I fell into it with a bunch of friends from the Southern Baptist Church. They were teaching me all these feelings that I had inside of me were wrong and I was an abomination.”

It was 1991, and the U.S. military was preparing for the first Gulf War. He was flown to an air base in Saudi Arabia. “We were high up in the mountains, there were enormous amounts of mosquitoes, worse than growing up in Minnesota. I worked the night shift and every other night there was a big tanker truck that would drive around, it was run by the Saudis, there was a man in the back wearing this big chemical suit and he would spray the stuff into the air and this giant cloud of chemicals would roll into the hangar and I would be breathing this all night long.”

Holmgren endured the regular chemical exposure for six months. During this time



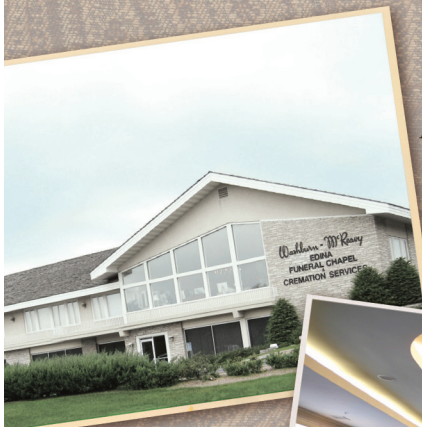
Eric Holmgren. Photo by Pam Colby

he also injured his ankle, it was a routine hairline fracture. But nothing ended up being routine for Holmgren. While still in Saudi Arabia he began having problems with vertigo.

He finished his stint overseas and returned to the base in California. He was soon diagnosed with labyrinthitis, severe swelling of the inner ear. Chemical exposure

is a known cause. A few years later a rare giant cell tumor was found where the fracture had been in his foot. It was a benign tumor that devoured bone. “I spent 32 nights in the VA Hospital, and they removed the cyst and filled up that empty space in my ankle with bone cement,” he remembers. It would be the first of many surgeries on his foot. The severe vertigo would also dog him. In an at-

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tempt to fix it, doctors performed surgery on his brain. It was unsuccessful and left him with hearing damage.

He completed his military service in 1995 and moved away from his evangelical friends. He became isolated and deeply depressed. He made plans to kill himself. Then, by chance, he connected with a former high school teacher who convinced him to seek help. He was admitted to the psychiatric ward at Abbott Northwestern Hospital.

He was released from Abbott after eight nights and continued treatment in an outpatient therapy group. He began to admit the truth about his sexual orientation. He moved to the Twin Cities and eventually joined the Gay Men's Chorus. In the chorus he discovered "an amazing family in a safe community of very kind people." He met other GLBT vets through a veterans program called Homeward Bound at the Minneapolis Community and Technical College.

An avid outdoorsman and gardener, he continued to struggle with problems related to the injury on his foot. In May of 2013, VA

doctors were forced to amputate it. "It can either define you or destroy you, I wake up in the morning and I look down and I see only one foot, I think, what is this? It becomes very dark, frustrating and sad. I tell myself, you've been through this, you have enough good moments in your past, get through it. Go brush your teeth. That is very common. I still struggle."

He has practiced formal meditation daily for twelve years. Holmgren explains, "The VA taught me how to be mindful, but basically it was meditation. The class is the one thing that has saved my life many times, because they were bold enough to go into Eastern medicine and say mindfulness is of help to our veterans, so let's do it. It's the one thing that's the most helpful with my depression, more than meds, it changes the neural nets up there and helps me to erase or modify some of those old beliefs that were ingrained in me."

His mother and his brother, who is also gay, came to care for him during the surgery. His parents have softened over the

years. "Being Swedish, we don't talk about everything, but there is a lot of love," Holmgren says.

He looks forward to returning to his yoga class at the VA. Recently, his recreational therapist called and invited him to be part of a triathlon, which involves biking. "I can't bike because of my vertigo and she told me they'd give me a trike. I was in tears with gratitude because the VA's now going to help me get out on all these wonderful bike trails."

However happy he may be with the local VA, Holmgren questions the motives of both of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. "It saddens me to see so many new veterans in need of prosthetics. I'm realizing now that life is just so short. I need to do what I can to support my peers and to be happy myself. I was helped by so many people, it's time for me to give back," muses Holmgren.

Holmgren invites military veterans to reach him at this email address 1704PRS@gmail.com. □

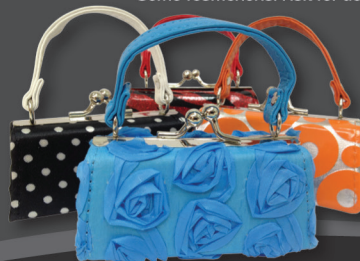
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ANDY CROSS IS INTERNATIONAL MR. LEATHER 2013

BY STEVE LENIUS

Fifty-one contestants from six countries competed in the 2013 International Mr. Leather (IML) contest held Memorial Day weekend in Chicago. Branded as “IML XXX5,” this year was the 35th annual contest (and the twentieth year your humble columnist has attended). This year’s IML contest and related events were attended by an estimated 18,000 guests.

This year’s IML weekend had a new host hotel in a new neighborhood: the Chicago Marriott Downtown/Magnificent Mile on North Michigan Avenue. Because the host hotel sold out quickly, IML also made arrangements with three other adjacent hotels.

But it appeared that most of the weekend’s socializing revolved around the host hotel’s lobby bar, ironically named “Rush.” (Yes, “Rush” is the street outside the hotel, but it’s also a famous brand of poppers—I mean, room odorizer.) The Twin Cities’ own Miss Richfield made an appearance on the bar’s video screens, courtesy of travel website Orbitz.com.

The weekend-long IML Leather Market featured 120 leather and fetish vendors, clubs and organizations. The market was on both the fifth and seventh floors of the host hotel, and there was express escalator service between the two floors. With up to 6,000 visitors every day, the Market was packed.

Friday evening’s Opening Ceremonies and Saturday evening’s Physique Prejudging (also known as the “Pecs & Personality” event) were held at The Vic Theatre, which was the venue for the IML contest several times in the late 1980s (and which reminded oldtimers of The Congress Theater, the contest’s venue from 1994 to 2004 and again in 2010). Sunday evening’s Contest and Show event returned to The Harris Theater in Millennium Park, a venue also used for the Contest and Show in 2011.

(Bus transportation, a formidable responsibility with so many events not at the host hotel as in some previous years, was ably coordinated this year by Twin Cities resident Jason Bribitzer-Stull.)

Master of ceremonies for all three weekend events was Lenny Broberg, the IML titleholder from 1992. Also seen during the weekend were previous IML titleholders from 1994, 1996, 2004, 2007, 2009, 2010 and,

of course, Woody Woodruff, the outgoing International Mr. Leather 2012.

Chuck Renslow, IML founder and Executive Producer, was around during the weekend in spite of some recent health chal-



Robert Miller, second runner-up; Andy Cross, International Mr. Leather 2013; Thib Guicherd-Callin, first runner-up; Sammy, International Mr. Bootblack 2013. Photo by Steve Lenius

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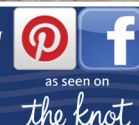
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Leather Life

lenges. Renslow had triple-bypass heart surgery in January; while recovering from that he fell out of bed, broke three ribs, and subsequently developed pneumonia. IML coordinator Jon Krongaard handled Renslow's speaking duties at the Friday and Saturday evening events, but on Sunday evening Renslow both welcomed the crowd to the Contest and Show and announced the winners at the end of the contest.

Competing this year from Minnesota were Ryan Brown, Mr. Minneapolis Eagle 2013 (who placed as a top-20 semi-finalist), and Kyle Truss, Mr. Twin Cities Leather 2013. Also competing from Minnesota in the 21st annual International Mr. Bootblack Competition (held concurrently with the International Mr. Leather Contest) was Bootblack Mike, who finished the bootblack contest as First Runner-up.

Entertainment at Sunday evening's Contest and Show was a one-woman performance by singer Beverly McClellan, as seen on NBC's "The Voice"—and boy, does she have one (a voice, that is). Combine Janis Joplin, Etta James, Bonnie Raitt, and Melissa Etheridge—and then multiply by ten. She plays a mean guitar and a soulful piano, too.

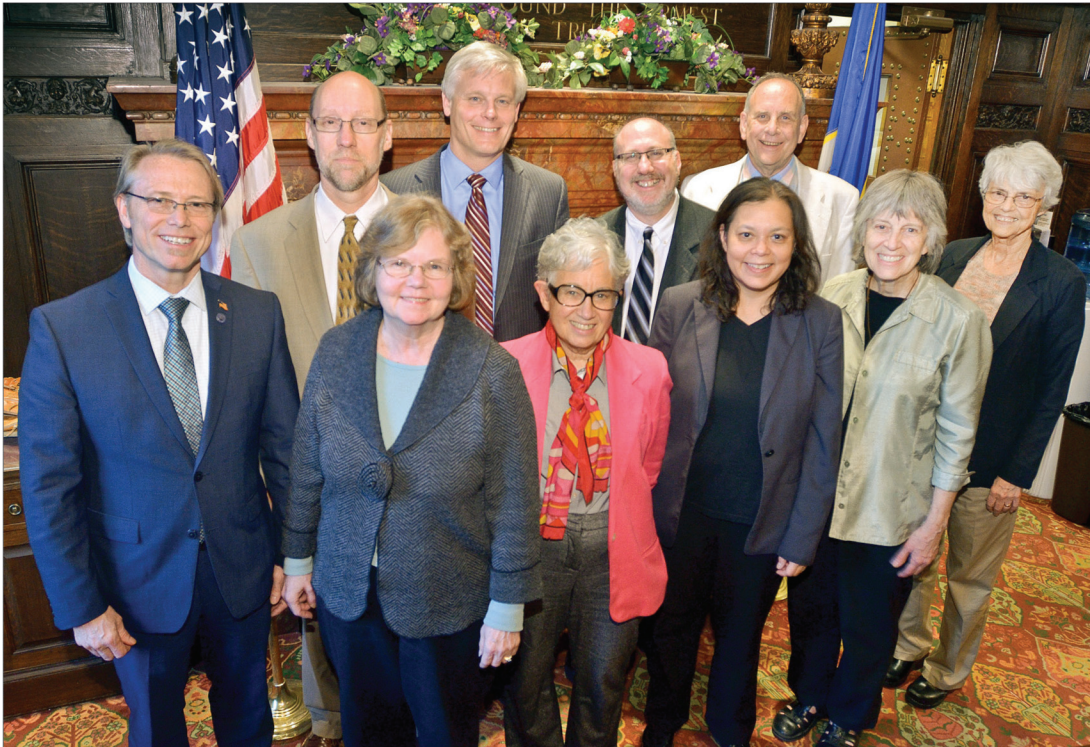
After McClellan's performance it was time to announce the outcome of the contest: Andy Cross, Mr. San Francisco Leather 2013, was named International Mr. Leather 2013. First runner-up was Thib Guicherd-Callin, Mr. Santa Clara County Leather 2012; second runner-up was Robert Miller, Mr. Leatherman Toronto 2013.

(Cross becomes the sixth IML titleholder from San Francisco and the second with the title of Mr. San Francisco Leather. The first? Well, that would be this year's master of ceremonies, Lenny Broberg—Mr. San Francisco Leather 1992, who became IML 1992.)

Named as the new International Mr. Bootblack was Sammy, from Portland, Oregon. The Jeffrey Payne Lifetime Achievement Award, a relatively new addition to the IML weekend, was presented this year to Rick Storer, Executive Director of the Leather Archives & Museum.

Next year's IML weekend will be held May 23-26, 2014, and the Chicago Marriott Downtown/Magnificent Mile will again be the host hotel. Rooms may be reserved starting on June 20, 2013—book early by visiting imrl.com. □

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UGANDA UPDATE: THEOLOGIAN AND ALLY DAVID R. WEISS ASSESSES THE COUNTRY'S ONGOING ANTIGAY RABIDITY

BY JOHN TOWNSEND

Theologian and author David R. Weiss (*To the Tune of a Welcoming God*) has been a diligent and courageous ally to the GLBT community. For over three years he has tracked the unfolding anti-gay horrors in Uganda where gay activist David Kato was brutally murdered; where the Anti-Homosexuality Bill has been perennially put forth in Parliament calling for the death penalty for homosexuals and prison for straight allies; where rape has been perpetrated on lesbians with the ignorant hope that it will turn them heterosexual; where HIV/AIDS has been ruthlessly stigmatized; and where the media outs gays and lesbians, not to expose hypocritical closet cases, but to make them targets of an anti-gay reign of terror that results in bashings, systematic employment discrimination, targeting of straight friends and straight family members, and eviction. Monied white American evangelicals who perpetrate the “pray the gay away” mindset have been enmeshed with Ugandan right-wingers and Christian extremists. Moreover, gay superstar Elton John has used his gigantic celebrity status to praise and legitimize former US President George W. Bush’s AIDS policy which was expressed through the controversial President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

I recently communicated with Weiss about his March journey to Uganda where St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church’s Wingspan Ministry sent him to assess how things have been developing there and to explore new partnership opportunities. Wingspan’s Uganda Project has been very active in raising area awareness about the Uganda plight, including a July 2012 event with Bishop Christopher Senyonjo, a Nobel-worthy ally who, at profound sacrifice and risk, has created safe havens for GLBT people in Uganda, and a screening of the Teddy-winning documentary about the Ugandan reign of terror, *Call Me Kuchu*.

Weiss on Homophobic Hysteria as a Tool for Political Distraction

“Several GLBT activists in Uganda voiced their perception that

the Anti-Homosexuality Bill is often used to distract public attention from far more important bills dealing with things like mineral rights, oil leases, infrastructure funding, etc. Many in Parliament know that simply referring to this bill will steer both the media and the public away from matters of more genuine importance. No one dismisses the threat that the bill poses. If passed it would have a crippling effect on any work being done to advance civil rights as well as pose a direct and devastating effect on the freedom and safety of GLBT persons, but there *is* an awareness that, just like in the US, this ‘issue’ can be used for political and PR leverage quite indifferent to the people whose lives it holds in the balance.”

“Just as in the US, there is clearly a measure of internal ‘movement’ politics. I was present at a meeting with about 20 younger activists running programs ‘in the trenches,’ and they (loudly) feel left out and ignored by the larger, more visible groups that garner the lion’s share of international funding. These groups are often in under-served rural areas and dangerous areas of Kampala.”

“We like to imagine that a community under fire will band together, and I think that’s a genuine first impulse. But when the level of desperation resulting from economic duress and social/familial alienation is so high and unrelenting, even good people find their character compromised. Theft and blackmail happen more often within the GLBT community than you think.”

Workplace Discrimination Strikes at the Heart of Ugandan Gays’ and Lesbians’ Very Survival

“I heard almost universal agreement that economic empowerment for individuals and GLBT communities is critical. To work for yourself means you don’t worry daily about getting fired because you’ve been outed or someone ‘suspects something.’ The level of economic anxiety is extraordinarily high. Finding or funding programs for economic empowerment that not only sustain individuals but also



Left to right: John “Longjones” Wambere is a well-known gay activist with SPECTRUM and David; Andrew (blue shirt, an ardent Ally and Bishop Senyonjo’s nephew) is the Programs Director at SPREC; Moses (red shirt) is an Ally and a faith-based activist; David with Jay, the founder of Fem Alliance. Photos courtesy of David R. Weiss

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build and strengthen communities is critical. When people can earn money they can better access health, experience a sense of dignity, and contribute to a sustainable movement.”

Straight Allies Placed At Peril

“There are very real risks, from reputation to livelihood to physical safety, just for being an Ally in Uganda. But Allies are indispensable in this work – they will be the tipping point in social change. Perhaps the greatest need is for Allies within the faith community. While there is a largely misplaced ‘African culture’ component to the anti-gay stigma in Uganda, the demonization of GLBT persons is really fomented by religious conviction. Faith-based Allies face some of the greatest danger because they dare to speak not simply from ‘mere emotion’ but from deeper convictions. They are perceived as betraying the faith. But, ultimately, change will require a recognition that there are other, more welcoming ways, to read the biblical story and to think theologically about sexuality.”

A Coherent Christian Theology for Queer Folk Needs Development in Uganda

“Indeed, most GLBT Ugandans harbor a deep personal faith summed up as: ‘God made me and God loves me’ but they lack any supportive faith community. And more than this, they lack a coherent theology that offers a picture—and an understanding—of God larger than their gut conviction. There is an unrecognized hunger for a framework that empowers them to see themselves not as exceptions to biblical rules but as one more example of characters loved by God who throughout the biblical narrative loves and welcomes people

otherwise marginalized by social prejudice. Right now they can barely imagine that’s even a possible perspective, but I believe gaining such a standpoint will be one of the most transformational moments in their struggle. Akin to King’s use of biblical imagery during the Civil Rights era, the GLBT community in Uganda will garner enormous strength when they realize that they have a place as beloved people within the Christian story.”

Transgender Fears and Anxieties

“I was struck by how much being transgender in Uganda requires embracing a profound sense of ambiguity. For the vast majority of trans Ugandans, hormones and surgery are not even wistful thoughts, and presenting as another gender is almost always dangerous and can easily be deadly if outed. The trans persons I spoke with were 100% certain of their gender identity and virtually 100% unable to pursue it in their lives. This isn’t even something they lament really. It is the way it is. One transman, in particular, struck me. Jay runs a small program called the Fem Alliance. He serves mostly rural women who identify as lesbian, bi, or trans, and he was very clear why HE does that: ‘I still have a woman’s body, and I probably always will. I know how dangerous it is to be a woman, so I want to make a difference for them.’ It was a fascinating embrace of ambiguity as a sort of providential given in a world where nothing can be taken for granted.” □

Notes: In 2011 Lavender ran the ‘Uganda: An Overview’ Series. Read it again at www.lavendermagazine.com. Find out more about Wingspan and David R. Weiss at www.stpaulref.org/wingspan_info and www.tothetune.wordpress.com



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WORKPLACE EQUALITY AS “GOOD BUSINESS” AN INTERVIEW WITH ADAM BERNARD OF GM PLUS

BY RANDY STERN

Even through this historic period in our community’s history, there are still a few areas where equality is being challenged.

In some places, being out at work continues to be a struggle. The perception is that in certain industries GLBT employees would never get their fair share. We often ask for acceptance in our workspace, benefits for our partners and spouses, and protection against discrimination when terminated for the cause of being GLBT.

However, the overall perception of the automotive industry of not being a friendly place for GLBT employees was crushed years ago. At the forefront of this paradigm change was General Motors. GM became the first automotive firm in North America to extend benefits to same-gender partners and spouses and to codify non-discrimination clauses in their human resource policy books.

In 2000, GM also became among first entities within the automotive industry to officially recognize an employee resource group (ERG) for their GLBT employees and allies. GM PLUS has since been a leader in the industry in terms of the work the ERG does within and outside of the company. Not only has GM sponsored the Out and Equal Conference in the past, but the founder of the ERG was recognized by the GLBT professional group as one of the movement’s pioneers.

At the 2013 North American International Auto Show in Detroit, I had the pleasure of interviewing the chairperson for GM PLUS, Adam

Bernard. In his current capacity as Associate Director of Competitor Intelligence, Bernard took on the top role at GM PLUS in 2006, after coming out in 2001 by wanting to get involved within a similar functional group inside the Research & Development department – a forerunner to the ERG.

Bernard explains the primary function of GM PLUS, a resource within the company. He stated that the group focuses on “workplace equality, benefits, helping [GLBT] employees get answers to questions, helping advise the company on [GLBT] issues.” Bernard further stated that, “When a question comes up, we’re the door you knock on if you have a question on the [GLBT] community.”

According to Bernard, GM PLUS has a membership of between 200-225 GLBT employees across the company. While most of its membership is centered around GM’s facilities in Southeastern Michigan, Bernard mentioned there is one member in China, one in Mexico, and some on the West Coast of the U.S.A. Bernard knows of one member working at one of GM’s plants. The ERG communicates through an internal website, but also will post articles through GM’s internal news channel as a way to communicate to the company at large what GM PLUS is doing.

The ERG also does outreach representing GM. Last year, the group went to Purdue University for a GLBT career panel. Bernard stated that it was there when GM PLUS was joined by Mr. Gay Indiana, who just happened to work at one of the company’s stamping plants in the state.

As part of GM PLUS’ work in the Southeastern Michigan community, Bernard cites that the ERG is “involved heavily” with Affirmations, the region’s GLBT community center. Along with ERGs from Ford and Chrysler, Bernard said that his group helped in contributing \$250,000 to help build the new location for Affirmations. It also combined with Ford and Chrysler GLBT ERGs; GM PLUS supports Motor City Pride, now held annually at Hart Plaza in downtown Detroit since 2011.

One of the recent highlights of GM PLUS was the production of a video for the It Gets Better movement – the first automotive entity to do so. According to Bernard, the idea was discussed within GM PLUS’s board. However, a phone call from Joe LaMuraglia, the Manager of Communications for GMC and company Diversity Communications specialist for GLBT market, to Bernard set the video in motion. LaMuraglia got inspiration by seeing Google’s “It Gets Better” ad during an episode of *Glee*. The ERG asked for volunteers within the company, while LaMuraglia worked the pro-



Adam Bernard. Photo by Randy Stern



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Workplace

duction's logistics and the script.

When their "It Gets Better" video was released via YouTube, GM received positive feedback within and outside of the company. A year later, GM PLUS followed up with a reflection video shown internally within the company focusing on the people involved in the original video and how it changed their lives.

Also last year, GM PLUS took out an ad in Southeastern Michigan's GLBT publication, *Between The Lines*, ahead of Motor City Pride. The ad featured the Chevrolet Volt in-between two other products of the bowtie brand. The tag line was a classic one: "Mom, Dad, I'm Electric."

The euphemism for coming out sparked a social media frenzy, as the ad copy showed up on Facebook and linked on other similar channels. Bernard did not plan on the ad going viral, but the reaction has been extremely positive in and around the community.

Bernard affirmed that support for GM PLUS and its efforts come from "all the way to the top." Recently, GM's Chief Executive Officer Dan Ackerson recorded a video supporting the GLBT employees of GM. In turn, the company will have its first Chief Diversity Officer as part of GM's leadership.

In turn, GM PLUS is leading the way into the future with initiatives internally and externally to advance the cause of GLBT employees and professionals. For example, Bernard is working with the company's Human Resources to add GLBT self-identification on an employee's record after being hired. Bernard said the motive in doing so is to "be able to track and mentor [GLBT] employees within the company."

Outside the company, Bernard also mentioned that GM PLUS is working with other major firms outside of the automotive industry to "cross-reference and benchmark" each other on GLBT employee issues and ERG development.

As for the purpose of being out front as a company affirming their GLBT employees, Bernard said that though it is "nice being an open company, it is also good business."

For GM, through the efforts of GM PLUS and Bernard, it has been good business being a beacon for GLBT workplace issues and its personnel. ■



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Representative Karen Clark. Photo by Sophia Hantzes

HONORING KAREN CLARK

BY PAM COLBY

Karen Clark, our own Minnesota state representative, is the longest serving gay or lesbian state legislator in the country. She was honored recently by the White House when she was named a “Harvey Milk Champion of Change,” for her commitment to equality and public service. The White House praised Karen’s work on behalf of low-income, American Indian and immigrant constituents.

Raised in a Catholic family in the predominantly Protestant area of Rock County, Minnesota, Clark learned early about being an outsider. She also learned about justice from her mother, Millie, a strong woman who at one time served as the mayor of the small town of Keneth, Minnesota. Her parents were hard working farmers with open minds; it was a tight knit family.

Clark studied nursing at St. Teresa’s, a women’s college in Winoona, Minnesota. While she was in college, her older brother left to fight in the Vietnam War. Clark recalls, “My big brother went off to Vietnam and I was heartbroken. I always had him in my mind when we were marching against the war. He came back from Vietnam and only lived for about a year and a half; he was terribly damaged by the war. He had Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome, but we didn’t have the words for it in those days.”

By the age of 24 she was living in Minneapolis, working as a public

health nurse, and gaining a reputation as a social justice activist. She also found the strength to come out as a lesbian. When it came time to tell her family, she returned to her hometown. “I remember thinking that they don’t have any support for having a lesbian daughter, I better just stay there, talk to them. One of my big worries was that I had a brother and sister at home, I wondered if I’d be ostracized from my siblings. Well, it was just the opposite, my mother, honest to God, the first words out of her mouth were, ‘Karen, I will always love you.’”

By 1975, Clark had joined the AFSCME union. Her social justice work had led her to Vermont to attend a 6-week feminist theory institute called Sagaris. There she studied with feminist icons Charlotte Bunch and Rita Mae Brown. In one class the speaker was Elaine Noble of Boston, the first openly lesbian woman elected to political office in the country. The seed was planted.

Back in Minnesota, Clark continued to work on multiple issues, including organizing lesbians. Clark recalls, “We started the Lesbian Feminist Organizing Committee, it was a group of activists who wanted to find other lesbians, it was risky to be open. Our goal was to establish lesbian cells all over the state, we compared it to honeycombs.”

Clark’s network was growing, and her rural background and work

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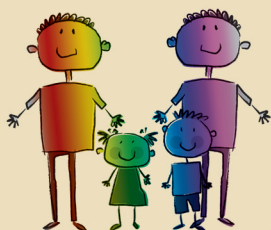
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Our Affairs

with labor unions was of value. She was encouraged and ran for the legislature. Friend and early supporter Janet Dahlem remembers, "The first campaign was led by a collective of 10 or 12 people that called ourselves the steering committee and that was an unknown model. We had to mobilize and encourage disenfranchised people to believe in the electoral process."

Clark was elected by a good margin her first time out. It was 1980, and Nobles was no longer in office. Minnesota would earn the distinction of having the only two out elected officials in the country, Allen Spear in the State Senate and Clark in the State House. It would be six long years before Cal Anderson would be appointed to the Washington State Senate.

Clark recounts her first day on the job, "I was walking around trying to find my office in the building. I hadn't found it yet. I was still looking and this real curmudgeon of a guy, Tom Ostoff, came up and said, 'Clark if you think you're going to introduce that gay-rights bill here you better think again because I live in St. Paul. We just defeated it with our ordinance.' And I said, 'and what is your name?'" Thirteen years later, in 1993, Ostoff was one of Clark's biggest supporters when Minnesota passed the strongest state civil-rights protection for GLBT citizens in the country. Dahlem's analysis of Karen's ability to bring people together is that, "she has this unstoppable belief that even people who are arch enemies one day, can be allies the next."

It was during the big debate on the civil rights bill that Clark's mother wrote a letter to the editor of her local paper and described her daughter as, "differently blessed." Clark explains, "She received lots of mail, much of it hate mail. We did not agree on this, but she

was pro-life, and she had the experience of having the local pro-life committee tell her that she was no longer welcome to be part of that committee." Millie Clark responded to the group that she would bring home her crockpot if she was no longer welcome due to her daughter's lifestyle. Clark laughs, "She was very sad by it, but her crockpot response is a lighthearted moment for me." That summer Joe and Millie Clark would march in the gay pride parade carrying a sign that read: "Our Gay Children Should Have the Same Rights as Our Heterosexual Children."

Marriage equality came to Minnesota exactly twenty years after the passage of the GLBT civil rights bill. Karen feels the victory, "came from an incredible amount of well-planned and hard-fought organizing strategies that raised the issue of fairness, I think Minnesota's basic sense of fairness really came to the forefront." She knows that if either of her parents were still alive they would have worked hard for the law. Clark continues, "You know the lemon that was delivered to us two years ago with the constitutional amendment, we were able to turn into beautiful lemonade."

One might think Karen would take it easy after a busy legislative session. But, never one to slow down, she is already planning ambitious legislative goals for next year. In addition, when not in St. Paul, you can find Clark and her partner of 24 years, Jacquelyn Zita, working on environmental justice issues. They operate a farm and non-profit organization in Chisago County called the Women's Environmental Justice Institute. Clark adds that it is a beautiful place for a wedding. For more information on the multi-layered work of the institute visit their website at www.w-e-i.org/. □



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Senator Scott Dibble. Photo by Sophia Hantzes

A STATE SENATOR BECOMES A FULL CITIZEN IN HIS OWN STATE

BY ANDY LIEN

The 2013 marriage equality legislation had to not only be introduced as bills in the Minnesota House of Representatives and Senate, but the bills also had to be taken through committee hearings and championed to be heard on the floors of those chambers. Representative Karen Clark sponsored the House File 1054 and Senator Scott Dibble sponsored the Senate File 925, both progressing and protecting the legislation every step of the way. I asked Senator Dibble to reflect on the passage of marriage equality in Minnesota. Here's what he had to say about the recent two years of fighting the marriage amendment and working for the freedom to marry:

Through it all, I had this sense of history. I haven't been around forever, but I've been around for a long time. I've been in the trenches for over 20 years, so I had the benefit of personally knowing and being mentored by some of those early pioneers—like Allan Spear and Brian Coyle—all of these amazing people who had really kind of thrown down significant professional and personal risk to themselves and were amazing forerunners. It felt like they were with us, even though so many of them have gone on. I felt that it was important to maintain the strong memories, the echoes of the fights that had gone on before, because we learn a lot from that kind of courage, what I call “radical dignity.”

How do you think they would react to marriage equality in Minnesota?

They would be bewildered and thrilled and proud.

It is a major achievement that this movement has been striving for for all these decades. It's not just about marriage, it's about taking our

proper place in a society where we fully belong as complete and total human beings. To have the ability to grow up, fall in love, get married, start your family, start your life...as if it were the most natural thing in the world. It eliminates so much from the path that had been put in front of us. It's going to take a while. We have a black president, but we still have struggles with racial inequality and class. But the election of Barack Obama as president is having a transformative effect that we are only beginning to understand. The establishment of marriage in our community clears the path on so many fronts in a way that we're only beginning to understand.

Also, this is something to think about as well, the way we won this fight and what it represents in terms of advancing the larger purpose of democracy in freedom and full equality is good for our entire society. We did it in a way that was life-affirming that was full of grace and love and patience for those who were opposed to us. And, even patience for those who were for us but were uncomfortable or confused. It's a new model of how to create social change, because it was built so profoundly on personal conversations. It was about interpersonal connections in the face of tremendous hostility, reaching toward common ground and shared values. Being able to lay ourselves bare and expose ourselves, that takes strength. It's not about being weak and vulnerable, it's about being as tough as nails. It's about not backing down and not apologizing, really forcing people to confront what they try to resist.

What do you think the future is for the GLBT-specific politics? Do you think it will become more general than specific?

In a sense, yes. This is what we're striving for and that's a good thing.

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Part of me regrets it a little bit of course because we lose some of the flavor of our subculture, we become less and less of a subculture. When you've been a subculture because you're marginalized and you're set apart, you have to find your own ways of being together and forming community and identity. I don't think that'll ever go away—we are gay and we do see the world in a different way because of that. You're forced to figure out you're gay in the face of monolithic heterosexual assumptions everywhere, and I don't think that's going to go away any time soon. There's still plenty, plenty, plenty to be done; there's still hostility and violence and discrimination, so we have a long ways to go.

That being said, imagine what life will be like one, two, three generations from now. It will be completely different. We'll always have unique perspectives, unique needs and we'll always need to be sure that we have a seat at the table to articulate our needs. We bring a voice and a perspective that is important to have. Whether it's about history or senior issues or public health research, there's still a huge gap that requires our perspective.

With this rapid movement in marriage equality, do you also see the ability to move more quickly in other areas?

Yes, the whole subject is becoming so much less taboo and more natural so it's not like an electric fence whenever it comes up. We'll be able to identify problems and figure out solutions and rally political will to enact legislation to solve the problems...and it'll become so much less of a wrangle as time goes on.

What are you expecting come August 1 in Minnesota?

It'll be crazy. I'm already getting invitations to weddings. Just think, forever we haven't been able to get married. There have been individuals who are long-term, committed partners—married in every respect—so there is a pent-up demand. It's going to be huge. It's wonderful. A fantas-

tic era of celebration. You know what's going to happen is that Minnesotans are going to see all that joy, all that love, families coming together in celebration, all the tears of happiness...and then people are going to move on and settle down, as many of us already are, and start getting on with life. Almost nothing's going to be different in Minnesota.

Through both the campaigns against the amendment and for marriage equality, you made the strong point that though you and your husband, Richard, are legally married in California, you've been legal strangers in Minnesota. When the clock strikes 12:01 on August 1, that will change in the matter of a moment. How do you think that will feel?

It's hard to predict. Part of it is an abstraction, just a transition from one state of being to another and there's nothing tangible. On the other hand, I had the experience when we were married in California in 2008. We had already married each other privately, just the two of us, exchanged rings and began to call each other husband a few years prior to that. And, of course, our families knew that and were loving and supportive in every way. But we had that wedding and the ceremony—ritual, vows, exchanging of rings—and then the officiant, a very good friend of ours, declared, "By the power vested in me by the laws of the State of California, I declare Richard and Scott to be married." There was a transformation that occurred in ourselves and in our family that was totally unexpected. Suddenly, it was like we walked through this gauzy veil and we entered into this sense of community. Our families had an understanding of us and an access to our relationship that wasn't there before. I was thunderstruck by that experience. I don't know if that is going to happen on August 1 in Minnesota, but I do know that I'm going to feel like I am a full citizen in my own state. □

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QUEER AND DIGNIFIED... AND CATHOLIC. HUH?

BY JIM SMITH

GLBT Catholics and progressive Catholics in general get hassled from both sides of the holy water font. On one side, from some non-Catholics and former Catholics who wonder aloud—quite reasonably enough—why queer and progressive people would keep the “Roman Catholic” when it appears Rome and its local representatives would rather they take up space in somebody else’s church. On the other side, from many within the Catholic church hierarchy and some in the pews who in fact do want the queers gone for good.

But whose church is it anyway? Many Roman Catholics, including scores of thousands in Minnesota, understand that when they first got their head wet at that above-mentioned font, they were baptized to one day own their faith, follow the Jesus of the Gospels, and let a well-informed conscience be their guide. Sometimes that means keeping the “Catholic” while standing up and speaking truth to power. And that they did, in Minnesota last year and this, and in very Catholic states like Rhode Island, Maryland, and Delaware.

For over 40 years, in fact, a community of Catholics across the nation called DignityUSA has been gathering for support and speaking truth and love to power. DignityUSA is the nation’s largest organization of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and allied Catholics. They’ve been standing without apology in that strange space between those who reject the Catholic Church altogether and some Church leaders for whom Catholicism means “pray, pay and especially obey.”

For a few proud days, DignityUSA will stand in Minneapolis this summer for its biennial convention, held at the downtown Hilton from July 3-7. “We’re thrilled to be meeting in Minnesota, where people of faith are such a powerful force for change, speaking to the people in the pews as well as to legislators and other leaders,” said Lourdes Rodriguez-Nogues, president of DignityUSA.

A Celebration of Multi-Faith Organizing in Minnesota

The convention opening ceremonies will feature a special celebration of the historic success of Minnesotans in defeating a constitutional amendment restricting marriage to a union of a man and a woman last fall, securing marriage equality through the legislative process in May, and the crucial role played by a broad coalition of people of

faith in those victories. Faith communities of all kinds who raised up the beauty of same-sex relationships are invited to participate in the convention’s parade of banners.

Let Justice Flow Like A River

Throughout the convention, attendees will be strategizing, praying, and strengthening the gathered community for the challenges ahead. Positive queer theology, marriage equality advocacy, transgender dignity, workplace discrimination, church worker injustice, bullying, mysogyny and homophobia in the church, racial and gender discrimination, these and other justice issues will be addressed.

Martin Grochala, convention chair and member of Dignity/Chicago described the goal of the convention: “Attendees will return home with skills for addressing injustice in their communities and with a clear understanding of what have been proven to be successful advocacy strategies. The work at this conference will be rooted in an understanding of Catholic social justice teaching through the lens of the LGBTQ experience. We will ask attendees to look seriously at justice issues in their communities—in both the LGBTQ and broader civic and religious communities.”

All Are Welcome

All are welcome to attend the convention, from long-time Dignity members to those brand new to the movement. A woman’s retreat and a Leadership Institute for young adults will precede the convention. Those new to DignityUSA are welcome to attend these also. Register at Conv2013.Dignityusa.org.

Year-round there is a small Twin Cities chapter of Dignity that meets every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month at 5:00PM for Mass and potluck. Dignity/Twin Cities meets at Prospect Park United Methodist Church in Minneapolis. All are welcome to attend once or often.

Even the Pope Can’t Tell Us Who We Are

These aren’t easy times to be Roman Catholic for queer persons and families or their many, many Catholic allies. But a rich life is often found in the midst of righteous struggle, in the adventures faced when we walk with dignity and hope on treacherous ground. □

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HOW CHANGE HAPPENS WITH OUTFRONT MINNESOTA

BY ANDY LIEN

The second-floor office in the Sabathani Community Center in Minneapolis is an unassuming space for such a bustling organization as OutFront Minnesota. In its 26th year of existence, the mission of OutFront is to move Minnesota toward the elimination of homophobia and transphobia and toward full equality for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people. Most recently, OutFront has been at the fore with Minnesotans United for All Families and Project 515 as part of a triumvirate of sorts, working to defeat the marriage amendment last fall and then lobbying for marriage equality these past months. It is with gratitude and curiosity that I went to OutFront to talk to Executive Director Monica Meyer about the victory and the future of OutFront and the LGBT community in Minnesota.

As explained by Meyer:

It's about how change happens. We envision that Minnesota is a better place when Minnesotans understand LGBT issues, they understand LGBT issues, they're not afraid of LGBT people, they're working on perhaps any stigma that they have about what they perceive LGBT people to be like, and that they're working on societal homophobia and transphobia that might be there—that's the Minnesota that we want to live in, right? We want a Minnesota where a majority of Minnesotans are thinking, "You know, I know somebody who is LGBT and I don't see any reason why they can't have the same freedoms I have." They know how to face any discrimination or adversity and they do it because they think it's a good way to be. So, OutFront exists for that purpose. We don't have one policy that we work on. We don't have one issue that we can say, "Well cool, when we have that we can close our doors."

So, we know that we can't close our doors yet. We know that because there are still hate crimes out there, that we get bias incidence reports across the state, we still know that there's discrimination in employment, that—despite having laws—it's still difficult for LGBT people to be active participants in society. We can tell stories about kids being bullied in school because of their perceived sexual orientation or their gender identities. So, we know we've got work to do. For us, we know that OutFront will never be big enough to be in every single community and have staff there to say, "Stop that." And we believe that society will be a better place if there are more people who are actively working on LGBT equality. They're active. They're vocal. At OutFront, we know we

need to support those people and we need to connect them so they're not the lone unicorns out there. We need to network these champions of equality.

What was awesome about the amendment was that people stepped up. It was such a prevalent story in the campaign when people would say, "I never thought I was political, but this issue means a lot to me, it means a lot to our state, and we need to defeat that amendment." It lit a fire across our state. For OutFront, we were investing in building a lasting infrastructure of leaders



Monica Meyer. Photo by Sophia Hantzes

Continued on page 152 ➔



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across our state. That's what we really wanted.

When we knew that the constitutional amendment was on the ballot, that was the piece that OutFront was instantly interested in: we cared about feet on the ground. We wanted a campaign that would be transformative for our state, and it was. It was the only reason why we were able to pass marriage; we were able to go back out across the state and say, "We defeated the amendment and now we're going to finish the deal." And people did. Volunteer leaders were back to phone banking and saying, "I didn't think we'd have to phone bank again, but let's do it."

And now we have to go back across the state and tell them what's next. People are engaged because they want to do good work and they like the community that is built around it, so we want to keep that community stocked up, full of leaders.

One thing we know is that we need to be building support in the districts around marriage, so that we make sure that we get the people who voted for marriage reelected. We know that it's early to start on reelections, but we also know from the amendment campaign that we had the luxury of having 18 months to work on defeating the amendment and that was great because we truly are building this infrastructure. We're deliberate. We have the time and space and can raise the funds to do it. Across the state, we'll be working to protect those legislators; not just talking about the legislators, but how we can make this state be the Minnesota we want it to be.

We're really proud of Minnesota. We're really proud of advocates for LGBT equality. People stepped up and gave their all. They gave their time, their money, and their blood, sweat, and tears to defeat the amendment and pass marriage. And, we know there's a lot of interest in staying engaged and connected, so that's what we're going to do. We know that one of the main issues will

be Safe Schools and we'll be doing some support of these legislators who voted for marriage. Then, we'll be talking to communities within communities about what's important and making sure that we're advancing equality and continuing to provide the support that is needed to actually undo homophobia and transphobia. What kind of education is needed? How are we reaching people who are barriers to people who want to be who they are and love who they love?

What we did in the campaign against the amendment was antithetical to most voter campaigns. We were asking people to have 15-20 minute conversations at doors with strangers and ask, "What does marriage mean to you? Are you married? Do you know anyone who's in a same-sex relationship?" Through these really long, personal conversations, we put a face on it. We humanized the issue. And, that's what we need to continue to do—we need to continue to humanize LGBT people.

Meyer's ability to weave political and organizational theory from her time at the Humphrey School of Public Policy & Affairs into conversation is valuable as a grassroots organizer. She is credible and knowledgeable while also approachable as a leader. As she told me about the "feet on the ground" philosophy that's been at the heart of the grassroots organizing with OutFront for years, it's easy to see its crucial role in the recent fight against the amendment and for marriage equality. By enabling and empowering people to tell their stories and turning them into citizen lobbyists and volunteer leaders, the feet on the ground marched to victory. And, OutFront will continue to empower Minnesotans to move toward full equality together. □

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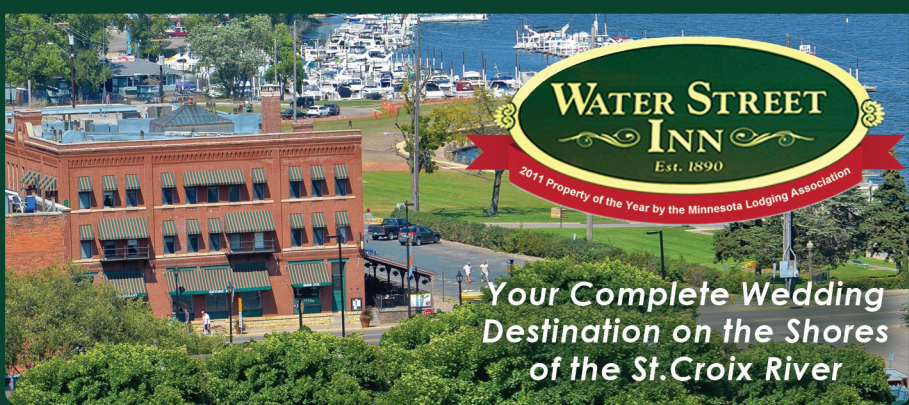
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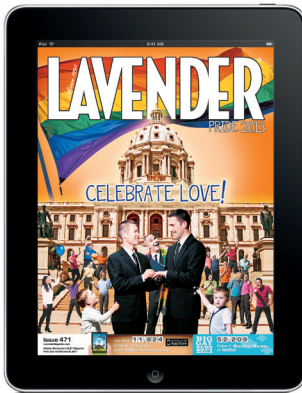


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Chief Janeé Harteau. Photo by Pam Colby

POLICE CHIEF TO MAKE IT LEGAL

BY PAM COLBY

In March of 2012, the City of Minneapolis made history by swearing Janeé Harteau into office. Janeé is the first female police chief in our city and the first openly lesbian police chief in the country. When you add those distinctions to her French Canadian and Cherokee ancestry, Harteau is prompted to joke, “I’m a melting pot within myself.”

Janeé was a high-achieving, first-born child in a family of daughters. Most of her childhood years were spent in Duluth, Minnesota. She aspired to be a singer, her father was a musician, and she began playing guitar at the age of five. “When I was growing up, little girls didn’t even think about becoming a police officer,” Harteau recalls. In high school, she became the lead singer in a band that played hits from the 1940s and toured all over northern Minnesota.

Her mother didn’t think there was much job security in being a singer. Janeé was steered to school to become a medical secretary, where she was bored. “It was really because I wanted to do something that made a difference, and some guys that I had gone to high school with were going to be cops. I didn’t know that was an option for me, but I found out that it was,” Harteau recalls.

Harteau completed law enforcement school in Hibbing and took a job with the Minneapolis Police department in 1987. She was drawn to the diversity and anonymity of a larger city. Harteau was twenty-two years old, “I tried to not be different you know, there were some

organizations that formed for women in law enforcement, I never participated in that. I didn’t want to show any separation. I wasn’t trying to be one of the guys, I was just trying to be a chameleon in blue.”

She was proving to be an outstanding officer, and cites her communication and listening skills as reasons for her success. “I try not to be judgmental, I think it is important because a lot of people are in embarrassing situations and they didn’t want to call the police. You are often dealing with people at very low points in their life and so I remember that this could be me. I never feel like I am above any situation.”

Her career was going well. The chameleon approach was working, but then something happened that took her by surprise. She fell in love with fellow officer and friend, Holly Keegel. “It was a surprise for both of us and that’s why we kept it private. It was a struggle, we had to be strong as a couple before we could have that conversation with other people, so it was hard, we had to go through accepting it ourselves. But I also think that’s what makes our relationship so powerful, because in those early years we only had each other. It was a long 5 years.”

They were assigned to work together, and that is when the trouble started. They were partners on the street and at home, and nobody knew it. The problem was not with the whole department, just a few



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individuals. Harteau recalls that they didn't know if the problems stemmed from "rumors or jealousy or the fact that people would ask us out on dates and we wouldn't oblige." It was increasingly becoming an unsafe work environment.

Things grew more difficult. They weren't getting backup, people interfered with their radio transmissions, and things were planted in their vehicle. They went to a supervisor, who made a comment about their complaint being worth \$100,000 dollars. They weren't motivated by money, they simply wanted to do their jobs in peace. Eventually they felt forced to take their case to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), a state level human rights agency. It was a dark time. Some witnesses to events were not forthright when it came time to speak to internal affairs. However, there was enough evidence for the EEOC to find in their favor. Harteau seems to speak from her heart when she states, "I worked too hard to get where I was to have somebody try to undo that because they didn't like me, because I didn't date them, because I was with Holly, whatever it was. It didn't matter, it interfered with my ability to do my job."

Harteau considered leaving the police force, but things grew better after they were both transferred to a different department. "I was with a good group of people and it didn't matter a thing about me. They were just good cops who wanted to do their job, and I had a great supervisor and it was like starting all over. Holly and I never looked at it as we have a problem with the whole department or policing in general. We had issues with these individuals," recalls Harteau.

Their victory led to internal changes within the department. Although it was horrible at the time, Harteau feels the bumpy road

contributed to her success, "I wouldn't be sitting in the chief's chair now. I would have just enjoyed being a cop. You have to have those struggles so you get stronger and stronger, and then you can help other people."

In terms of the department, Harteau is quick to add, "We are so vastly different today because we are hiring diversity, because there are more men and women who think differently, and we are a more educated department; we require degrees to be police officers. The right people with the right amount of education lead to open minds, and let's face it, what job is more about people and empathy than being a police officer?"

Harteau loves the job thus far. She knew what she was getting into because of her close proximity to former Chief Dolan. She feels frustrated because sometimes there are things that she is unable to legally talk about, such as open investigations. She also has become visible in a whole new way, Harteau shares, "It doesn't matter where I am or whether I have a uniform on or not, I'm very recognizable. I didn't expect that, I feel like I can't go to the grocery store in my pajamas. I definitely feel like I represent the city all the time and I always have to be on my A game."

She also attributes her success to her strong family bonds. Holly Keegle remains her soulmate and partner, they have a 14-year-old daughter. After marriage equality passed in Minnesota, people in Janeé and Holly's lives, including their daughter, began asking if they were going to get married. The answer is YES! "I felt married for 24 years and so now I'm going to have the paper to prove it," Harteau says with a smile. □



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TRUE BLUE: DARIN McDONALD REDEFINES AUTHENTICITY BY BECOMING SAINT PAUL'S FIRST GAY COP

BY TERRANCE GRIEP

Darin McDonald has to come out—again and again and again. Not because he's a gay man (which he is), but because Darin McDonald is...a cop. "When I'm socializing, it makes me laugh, because most of my friends will introduce me to others as, 'This is Darin, he's a cop,'" McDonald laments. "I don't recall introducing my friends to other people and stating their profession, unless I know the other person is in the same field."

McDonald is, in fact, the first gay man is to come out while serving as a peace officer with the Saint Paul Police Department, and even as his off-hours friendships contain their share of awkward amusement, they also contain their share of awkward bemusement. "Being a friend with a cop is not the easiest friendship at times," McDonald admits, delineating the dark side of his dream job. "It's hard because most of us work nontraditional hours. It's hard to have your friends constantly call you and always having to tell them, 'Sorry, I'm working.'" Many of McDonald's friends and colleagues see his twin societal roles—those of out gay man and dedicated peace officer—as intrinsically contradictory.

McDonald may come out as a cop to the GLBT community in person-sized increments, but he came out as a gay man to the cops in a much grander fashion. Not long ago, the Saint Paul Police Department had begun a fortnight-long diversity training program, and when the GLBT-oriented educational organization OutFront Minnesota made its contribution, McDonald decided to speak up...and out. "I stood in front of the entire department and told everyone I was the department's only out gay male officer," McDonald recalls. "It was a little overwhelming, telling everyone my story when I didn't know anything about the majority of the people I was standing in front of."

While some might have seen only danger in such an admission, the young cop saw opportunity.

"I [came out] to break some stereotypes and to be authentic, to be a resource for my colleagues," he insists. "I invited them to contact me while I'm working. At St. Paul, we do have several officers who are out lesbians and have been around before my hiring, and they continue to be a positive face for the department."

Rebecca Waggoner, OutFront's Anti-Violence Program Director, presided over that training session and was, to put it mildly, impressed by McDonald's boldness. "I believe that what Darin has done is an act of utter courage," Waggoner affirms. "We know that it is acts such as this—coming out to his entire police department—that will indeed change the world. It was definitely an honor to train the Saint Paul Police Department with him!"



Darin McDonald at the 2012 TC Pride Parade. Photo courtesy of Darin McDonald

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The relationship between law enforcement and the GLBT community has traditionally been an uneasy one, and McDonald sees himself in the role of liaison between the two twitchy tribes.

"I try to bridge the gap between these two communities in which I belong, and, if not bring them closer, then to bring a better understanding of each other," McDonald offers.

This uniform intention has subsequently been transmuted into variegated action. "Since I started in the Western District in 2009, I have started to be visual in several of the LGBT businesses in our city," reports McDonald. "It was strange at first. I was constantly approached by some people with uneasy looks on their faces. They would ask why I was in the business—usually a bar—and if they should leave, and I would explain to them I was there to be visual and to be a friendly face. There would also be several other officers—gay and straight—who would do proactive police visits, and, after awhile, the clients and the businesses welcomed our visits."

While the police are able to educate by virtue of their cobalt-armored presence, that doesn't mean the coppers themselves aren't beyond some horizon-expanding of their own. Says Director Waggoner, "The relationship [between the Saint Paul Police Department and OutFront] exists because we believe that addressing systems inequities in an honest, straightforward, and professional manner will lead both to stronger systems' responses to the unique needs of LGBT crime victims *and* create an improved climate for LGBT officers and staff."

Happily (and necessarily), that amalgamated effort includes the highest echelons of authority's authority. "I have to commend Senior Commander Todd Axtell with the Saint Paul Police Department," Mc-

Donald effuses. "When several other officers and I asked in 2012 if we could have a presence in the Pride Parade, he worked hard to secure resources for us to take part of the parade. In 2012, four Saint Paul Police Department officers participated in the Pride Parade. This was the first time in the department's history, since 1854, we were active participants."

That historical act logged, McDonald has dragged his activism into the present, as well. "I want those who know me to judge me on my police work and not of who I am," he urges. "I love this job very much. I still show up and try to make a difference in someone's life... even for a fleeting moment."

Ultimately, for McDonald, his twin roles aren't contradictory—they're complimentary. "I am a cop who happens to be gay and not the gay cop," he parses. "I work with a great group of cops. I would do anything for them, and I know they would do the very same for me. Obviously, we all have our own personal beliefs, but when I put on my uniform, that doesn't matter anymore."

What does matter is the job...where every shift is a learning experience. Concludes McDonald, "Some say being a cop is a front row seat to the greatest show on Earth and we get paid to watch it," McDonald reveals. "I tend to agree." □

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PHOTOS BY JESI HOOLIHAN
PHOTOGRAPHY



The idea this year was to inspire you with the 'Ultimate PRIDE Spread.' A buffet loaded with colorful recipes, savory and sweet. Coloring food can go from amazing to trashy fairly quickly, so it was a challenge to pick out the actual food colors themselves in order to elevate the typical rainbow concept. From Unicorn Poop Cookies to Rainbow Bread and colorful Rainbow Layered Salads in Glasses – the recipes go from easy to challenging. The Glitterbomb Cupcakes were inspired by Nick Espinosa, a local Minnesotan who was the first person to ever glitterbomb when he dumped a full box of glitter on Newt and Callista Gingrich in June of 2011, shouting "Stop the hate!" and "Feel the rainbow, Newt!" This was my most exciting project to date; I hope all of you enjoy it as much as I did. Enjoy the rainbow!



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UNICORN POOP COOKIES

1 c. butter-flavored vegetable shortening
2 c. sugar
4 eggs
1/2 c. heavy cream
1 tbsp. vanilla bean paste + 2 tbsp. vanilla
extract OR 3 tbsp. vanilla extract
1 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. salt
Roughly 8 c. AP flour (see recipe notes)
Food paste (Electric Blue, Electric Purple,
Electric Yellow, Electric Orange, Electric Pink
and Leaf Green)

In the bowl of a stand mixer, add the shortening and sugar, beating until creamed, making sure to scrape the bowl if necessary. Add the eggs, one at a time, making sure they are incorporated. Then add the cream and vanilla bean paste. Turn the mixer off and add the baking soda, baking powder and salt, mix on low to combine.

Pour the batter into a 4 c. liquid measuring cup. Clean and dry the bowl, flat beater, and spatula. Get two 2/3 c. measuring cups at the ready. Measure out a scant 2/3 c. batter and place into the mixing bowl, then add food paste. Mix until food paste is combined and color is vibrant. Add two scant 2/3 c. measures of flour.

Turn mixer on and mix until dough has formed and becomes chunky. Turn mixer off, remove bowl and place colored dough onto a piece of plastic wrap. Form into a ball and cover with plastic wrap. Set aside and move on to the next color, repeating until all six colors are done.

Turn each dough ball out then cut in sixteen, equal sections. I cut each ball into 8 pie shapes and each one of those into half, giving you 16 total cookies in the end.

Form each wedge into a rope roughly 8 inches long, placing each rope slightly below and right next to the other so the ends graduate. Once you have all six ropes lined up, then curl them up into an almost circle – don't worry if they break, these are not meant to look perfect...poop does break.

Place poop on a silpat-lined half-sheet pan and sprinkle the top of each cookie with Rainbow Pearls, Rainbow Sprinkles, Pink Edible Glitter and Gold Edible Stars.

Bake in an oven that has been preheated to 350 degrees for 15 minutes. Remove from the oven and allow to cool in the pan on a rack for ten minutes, then remove and place onto a cooling rack to fully cool. Enjoy!

Continued on page 166 ➔



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RAINBOW BREAD

2 1/2 c. milk
3 tbsp. sugar, honey or maple syrup
2 tbsp. yeast
3 eggs
3/4 c. unsalted butter, melted
2 tsp. salt
4 c. AP flour + 3/4 c. additional flour per dough ball (see directions)

Food paste (Americolor Super Red, Orange, Lemon Yellow, Electric Green, Sky Blue and Electric Purple. If you desire a more psychedelic color way, use the Electric Orange, Electric Yellow, Electric Blue in replacement for the colors I chose.)

In a 4 c. liquid measuring container, place the milk and sugar. Put in microwave and heat for 3 minutes, remove and stir with a fork to dissolve sugar. Place your pinky finger into the milk, half way down your finger and the mixture should be a little more than warm, not hot. If it is hot, let it sit for a couple minutes stirring and checking until you reach that 'little more than warm' temperature. Once you have reached that, pour in the yeast (too hot of a mixture will kill the yeast and your dough will not rise) and stir with a fork to combine. Set a timer for 5 minutes and walk away – have a cocktail even! When you come back you should see a foamy top to the mixture. This means your yeast is active and you are in the race.

Place the eggs, melted butter, and salt into the bowl of a mixer fitted with the paddle attachment and turn on medium to break up eggs, then switch to low and slowly pour in the yeasted milk. Turn mixer off and add four cups AP flour.

Turn the mixer on low to blend the ingredients together and once they have come together, then

turn on medium to break up the larger lumps and make the mixture more smooth. Turn mixer off and place batter into six bowls – roughly 1 c. per bowl, not exacts here. Add one food paste color listed above to each bowl and stir with a fork to infuse with color.

Preheat oven to 200 degrees while you are preparing the dough.

For each color, the process is the same as follows. Remember to clean your bowl, flat beater, and spatula between each coloring so you do not contaminate the next color with the color you just used. Pour one bowl into the bowl of the mixer and add 3/4 c. flour in with the batter – remember to whisk the flour first before you measure. With flat beater attached, turn mixer on low until it all comes together, then up to medium speed, the dough will clean the bowl. Remove dough from bowl and place onto counter, it may be sticky it may not. Knead with your hands to see if it sticks to counter – if so, place dough in flour to coat, then knead that flour in until dough is of the right consistency. Place dough ball into a heat-safe bowl that has been sprayed with Bak-klene, spraying the top of the dough ball with Bak-klene as well and covering with plastic wrap – set aside. Rinse bowl, flat beater and spatula – repeat with next color.

Turn oven off and place prepared/covered dough into the oven and allow to rise for one half hour. Remove dough and place on counter. Take a half-sheet sized Silpat and place on counter – this will aid you in keeping the size right. Pour out your red onto the silpat and gently pull to stretch the dough into the shape of the whole Silpat, be gentle and try not to rush – it will stretch if you are patient. Feel free to press it as well in order to push it

into place making sure it covers the entire surface of the Silpat. Repeat this process by placing the next color, which is orange covering the entire surface of the red with the orange, stretching the dough gently. Followed by yellow, green, blue and purple. You may need to stretch the assembled layers out from time to time so they extend to the edge of the Silpat, no worries. Once you have all the layers placed on top of one another, then prep two 1.5# loaf pans by spraying them with Bak-klene. Preheat your oven to 200 degrees again. Once the oven is ready, take and gently press the edges of the dough so they no longer cover the colored edge of the Silpat and are centered on the center of the Silpat. With the Silpat in front of you placed wide-side running horizontal to you, take a sharp knife and cut down the vertical center of the dough. Gently roll the end of the dough toward the center – this will create a larger burst of color in the finished dough. Gently pick rolled dough up and place into loaf pan, adjusting so the ends are not squished. Repeat with other loaf. Turn oven off and place loaves into oven for second rise for 30 minutes. This bread will not rise a lot as bread normally does when you bake it, so you want the dough to be as high as you would like your finished product to be before you bake it off.

Remove bread from oven and preheat oven to 350, then place loaves into oven and bake for 40 minutes. Remove from oven and allow to cool in pans for ten minutes before turning them out onto a cooling rack to completely cool. Enjoy!

(Recipe makes two loaves.)

Continued on page 168 ➡



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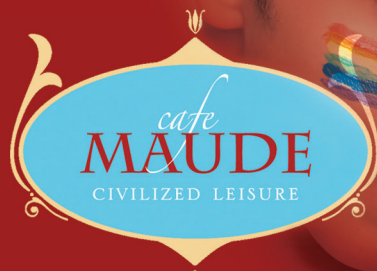


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BLACKENED CHICKEN CHOPPED SALAD WITH HONEY VINAIGRETTE

2 lbs. (roughly) boneless, skinless chicken breasts
3 cobs fresh corn, kernels removed
1 pt. blueberries
1 pt. grape tomatoes – halved
6 strips thick-cut bacon, fried and chopped
18 oz. brick feta cheese, chopped
1 orange pepper, seeded and chopped
2 avocados, rough chopped
Blackening Seasoning:
2 tsp. smoked paprika
1 tbsp. coarse ground pepper
1 tbsp. salt
2 tsp. cayenne pepper
1 tsp. oregano
1 tsp. thyme
1 tsp. garlic powder
Honey Vinaigrette:
Juice of 2 limes
1/4 c. honey (I use Savannah Bee)
1 tbsp. red wine vinegar
3 tbsp. olive oil
1 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. coarse ground pepper

Mix together blackening seasoning and place into a large, Ziploc bag. Trim chicken breasts and pound to flatten them so they are roughly 1/2" thin. Place them into the bag with seasoning and shake well to coat. In a regular frypan (not non-stick) place 2 tbsp. olive oil (you will need more) on medium-high heat. When oil is shimmering and begins to smoke add chicken breasts and turn heat down to medium, frying for 4 minutes on one side, then 3 minutes on the second side. Do not overcrowd your pan, so if you can only fit one seasoned breast in your pan at a time that is not a problem. Just make sure to keep your pan lubricated with oil as your chicken will not brown properly without that. Place cooked breasts onto a cutting board to completely cool – you will use the drippings, so do not throw them away.

In a large bowl place the ingredients for the honey vinaigrette along with the chicken drippings, and whisk to combine. Add all of the ingredients above except the feta. You can either keep the feta cubed or crumble the cubes into smaller pieces using your fingers which will incorporate the salty cheese more throughout the salad. Allow the salad to sit overnight to fully develop the flavors (you can add the avocado right at the end if you desire, I have not found that it browns excessively). Enjoy!

Continued on page 170 ➞



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GLITTERBOMB CUPCAKES

8 tbsp. (1 stick) unsalted butter, room temperature
1 1/3 c. sugar
1 c. sour cream
1/2 c. milk
4 large egg whites
1 tbsp. vanilla bean paste
1 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. kosher salt
2 1/4 c. cake flour

Preheat oven to 350. Cream butter and sugar together, scraping bowl to ensure ingredients are well incorporated. Add egg whites and beat well, scraping bowl to fully combine. Add sour cream and milk, beating to combine, followed by the baking soda, powder, salt and vanilla bean paste. Lastly, add the cake flour and beat until thoroughly combined.

Scoop scant 1/4 c. batter into muffin-cup lined cupcake pan that has been prepped with Bake-klene. Place pan into oven and immediately reduce oven temperature to 325. Bake for 20-25 minutes, until tester comes out clean. Let cool completely before frosting and sprinkling with disco dust (purchase at www.rosssveback.com).

FROSTING

1 lbs. unsalted butter, room temperature
1 c. heavy whipping cream
8 c. powdered sugar
1 tbsp. vanilla bean paste

In the bowl of a stand mixer with the flat beater attached, beat the butter, whipping cream, powdered sugar and vanilla bean paste for ten minutes. □



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Photos by Randy Stern

TOYOTA COROLLA

BY RANDY STERN

The Toyota Corolla has been the standard bearer for all compact sedans since the first GLBT pride celebrations were held.

From about 1970, North American consumers figured out how these small and mighty Japanese cars were more than just economical, reliable and sturdy conveyances. These represent a complete lifestyle change. It took a petroleum crisis to facilitate this change.

Based on current numbers, about nine million Corollas have been sold in the U.S.A. alone. That's a good chunk of the 30 mil-

lion-plus units sold worldwide. Corollas are also built in 16 countries around the world. Though it is not the best selling car in this country, it is the most popular automobile in various other places around the globe – Thailand and the Philippines, for example.

If it is so popular, how come we had to wait until now to talk about it?

Good question. There was a prevailing thought amongst enthusiasts that the Corolla was simply too boring. It was too dowdy for its own good. Its competition was better in various respects, but not without their

drawbacks. The Honda Civic is very advanced, but quite complicated. The Mazda3 is very sporty, but maybe a bit too hardcore for the mainstream. Newer compacts – the Chevrolet Cruze, Hyundai Elantra, Ford Focus, Dodge Dart, Nissan Sentra – raise the bar way high, but have you looked at how much they are being priced out at?

It is a small wonder why the Corolla manages to plod along in the face of its competitors. The Corolla I sampled is a gussied up 2013 S sedan model. Compared to the E140 model that came out for the 2009 model year, a new

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front end was adapted along with new trim pieces all around. Still, it is the same shape as always – not too exciting, really.

An upgrade to the S model adds a few more finishing touches. You get a body kit that skirts the air in the lower part of the car, a spoiler in the rear and alloy wheels. This tester was given a further upgrade of 18-inch Toyota Racing Development (TRD) alloy wheels and Toyo Proxes 4 all-season sport tires.

A new Corolla is looming for 2014 with the promise of advances while retaining some of its core tenets. For this final model year of the E140 generation, consumers still flock to it by the tens of thousands per month. The overall look is simple, straightforward and inoffensive. The details may be gussied up over the past few years, but no one can mistake this for being what it is – simple. Simplicity is the key to wanting a Corolla in the first place.

That simplicity continued inside where you are greeted by a basic set-up along with the S model upgrades. A flat-bottomed steering wheel adds to the package revealing a chrome-trimmed speedometer and tachometer. Two LCD screens provide trip information in a straightforward manner. HVAC controls are basic, while there are redundant controls on the steering wheel making the touch screen audio/navigation interface easier to work with.

Lower Corolla models offer basic seating that accommodates all drivers behind the wheel. The S package gives you a well-bolstered seat in black and blue trim that supports you at every turn. Rear seat room is better suited for average-sized adults. Trunk space is very decent with expandable room by folding down the rear seats. In all, space

utilization has improved over the years and is reaching the sedan's optimal interior space last exhibited in 1987.

Under the hood is a tried-and-true Toyota powertrain. It starts with a 1.8litre DOHC 16-valve four-pot with 132 horses to play with. Not exactly heart stirring, but it is what Toyota has for now. Simply, it gets the job done. Connected between it and the front wheels is a four-speed automatic gearbox. While its competition offers more ratios, the four-speed autobox is a tried-and-true transmission that shifts well. The drawback is when the Corolla runs at highway cruising speeds, where the top ratio sits at higher revs than its rivals – around 2500-2900RPM. Simplicity? Absolutely. Reliable? It is a proven combination that served the Corolla for many eons.

The driving experience of the Corolla is not exactly befitting of the tire/wheel package on this S model. It is rather competent, however. The ride's sufficient, but the TRD wheel/Toyo tire package creates more noise when it approaches road imperfections and the potholes left by this winter's onslaught of snow. Handling is fine, but you can feel some roll in turns. Brake action was solid allowing for tighter stops in both normal and panic situations. Steering is not exactly tight, but its action is quick and responsive. Toyota went with an electronic steering set-up since 2011...and it works.

If I were to ask why people would look at a Corolla, it would be the presumption of being a fuel-efficient compact. This Corolla S turned in an average fuel consumption figure of 30.4MPG. Considering the four-speed automatic for a moment, I wondered if it had an extra gear or two to play with what the

fuel economy would turn out to be?

A basic Corolla L model starts off at \$17,025. Once you skip the LE model and onto the S, your sticker price goes up to \$19,855. This example with the 18-inch wheels and Toyo rubber puts you back at \$23,454. The wheel/tire combo was a \$1,999 upgrade which is not exactly a make or break situation.

For 40-plus years, the Toyota Corolla owned the market with a reliable, solid and predictable machine. The Corolla does not have the flashiest design, the highest equipment content, nor is it the performance leader in the class. Yet, over 300,000 units are sold every year in this country – and I still ask “why?”

Let us be honest here – it is a solid car. People who buy a Corolla could care less about edgy design, high performance, technological excellence, and whether they can get XM satellite radio or Etune standard or not. Rather, whether or not they tick off those 18-inch TRD wheels and Toyo tires on the tester from the order sheet, they want a car that will go from Point A to Point B without complaint.

There will be a new Corolla coming in the next several months. If the Furia concept shown at the Twin Cities Auto Show in March is an indication of things to come, the Corolla has a bright future ahead in the upcoming generation of the best selling car in the world.

The Corolla is not a bad car overall. It runs well. It never offends when it goes about its business. That is all we want, and the Corolla simply works. For the 30 million-plus units sold worldwide over the past 45-plus years – it is all they really need. □





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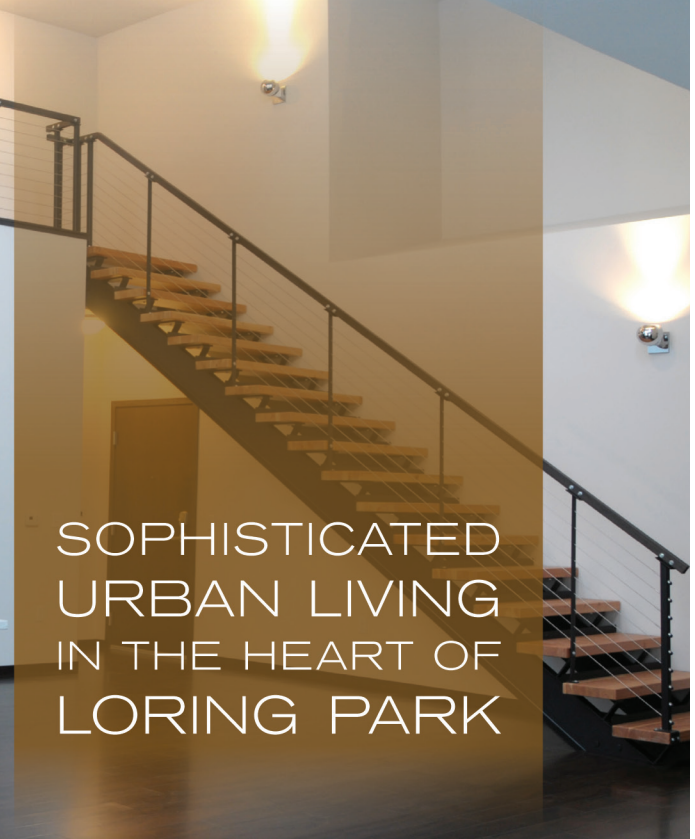
MARVIN
Windows and Doors

THE HOUSE THAT MR. FORM AND MR. FUNCTION BUILT

WRITTEN BY AARON RUBENSTEIN
PHOTOS BY GREG PAGE PHOTOGRAPHY

Continued on page 178 →

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In 1981, Madonna went solo, men at The Saloon were dancing to Funkytown by Lipps Inc., and Donn Burleigh and Mark Heymans met at a Valentine's Day party. They couldn't have imagined then that they'd be getting legally married in 2013. They've spent the last 32 years building their relationship and careers, traveling, and making a home together. They bought a shabby, 1916, south Minneapolis bungalow 21 years ago and renovated it from top to bottom using their complementary qualities and talents.

Their final major house project was to renovate the front porch which they used extensively . . . when Minnesota climes permitted. The light-filled space of the original open porch had been enclosed with ill-fitting storm windows, furniture placement was difficult due to the badly sloping floor, and it generally felt "dismal". Mark and Donn's first effort to replace the porch windows resulted in sliding windows that functioned better but didn't fit the house's architectural character.

They still wanted an enclosed, mosquito-free porch, but also a better designation of entry to the house, a warm year-round transition space between indoors and out, and a place to enjoy their morning coffee. They wanted the porch to resemble the original porch as much as possible, be more integrated with the house, and have larger, more welcoming stairs—like the original porch (as seen in the historic photograph of the house).

Mark and Donn made a good team to take on the decades-long, whole-house renovation. "We work great together on projects. We complement each other well," Donn notes. "One contractor referred to me as Mr. Function and Mark as Mr. Form. He's attuned to color and aesthetics, me to outlets and how the furniture fits." When it came to the porch project, however, they turned to an architecture firm for the first time, as it "in-

This page: Mr. Function, Donn, and Mr. Form, Mark.

Previous page: The porch accommodates a seating area as well as informal dining that Mark loves to use for his studies.

"HE'S ATTUNED TO COLOR AND AESTHETICS, ME TO OUTLETS AND HOW THE FURNITURE FITS."

Continued on page 180 ➔

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Art glass windows and full-view interior front door better connect the porch to the interior and bring more light into the living room.

volved the entire front of the house and the approach to it, was the last piece in reclaiming the house's historic integrity, and was our final project," adds Mark.

They discovered David Heide Design Studio at the annual Twin Cities Arts and Crafts Show & Sale held in September at the state fairgrounds. "After talking to several other architecture firms, there was no comparison," said Donn. "We chose the Studio because of David's love of the Arts & Crafts style, enthusiasm, and knowledge of old houses. Most importantly though, David knew this was about us and our wishes—not about David. He was the expert to make it *our* project. And we loved the team—including Pat from Golliker Construction. It was a wonderful process." Mark adds that "it was fun to work with David. He'd hear us and then come up with great alternatives to choose from."

David Heide Design Studio is a 14-person, Twin Cities architecture and interior design firm that is highly regarded for its work with historic homes as well as exceptional contemporary new houses. David and designer Chris Christofferson say "Mark and Donn were a blast to work with." "Their enthusiasm in pursuit of historic integrity was an inspiration," says Chris. David says his background in preservation has taught him to listen to the house. "Our goal is to make it look as if we hadn't been there while creating a comfortable,

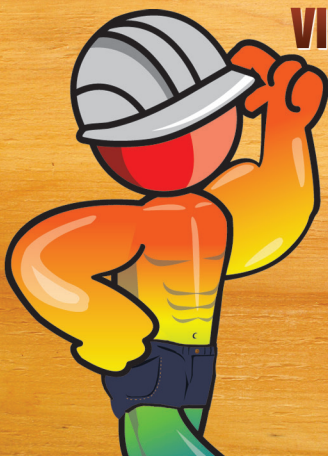
timeless, and seamless project."

The porch's roof and exterior walls were retained but the remainder was completely renovated. New windows were installed, matching the head height of other windows on the house. Custom windows and doors were designed to replicate the design of the house's original casement windows. The slate mosaic floor is heated, making for toasty winter-time toes. The original beadboard ceiling was restored. New exterior trim above the door and windows was designed to recall the scale of the original porch opening. The new, full-view, interior front door, with locally-crafted art glass, better connects the porch to the interior and brings more light into the living room.

Mark and Donn are delighted with their renovated porch and use it every day of the year. Michael Crull, an interior designer at the Studio, and David's partner of 16 years, provided the interior design for the project. "It's a favorite gathering spot when entertaining. We love the furniture that Michael found for the porch." Mark says "we would definitely hire an architecture firm—and David specifically—for another major project rather than going it alone. The Studio anticipated and designed all details, which made the construction process so smooth. Chris and David worked with the contractor throughout construction on our behalf. David knew how to make the historic photograph of the house and porch come to life."

"THEIR ENTHUSIASM IN PURSUIT OF HISTORIC INTEGRITY WAS AN INSPIRATION," SAYS CHRIS.

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HOUSE SHOPPING AND RENOVATION

When house shopping in 1992, Mark and Donn almost passed by their home of the last 21 years. After a long day of looking at houses, the “dog of the block,” with crumbling steps, aluminum porch windows, and gunmetal gray stucco, became their new home. Mark, Mr. Form, fell in love when they stepped inside. The house “had good bones but had been neglected,” he said. “Mark’s an emotional buyer and I’m not,” says Donn, Mr. Function. “He really wanted it but moving here was hard for me.”

As soon as they moved into their fixer-upper, however, Mark’s enthusiasm faltered. “He really went into a depression. Everything was horrible,” says Donn, “so many things needed work.” Mark wanted to sell and move but Donn resisted. Mark remembers that “our first house was very attractive and my grandmother couldn’t hide her displeasure when she first saw this house. She was clearly disappointed and thought we had lost it!”

“We have redone and touched virtually every surface in every room,” Mark recalls. “Everything is so different now from when we moved in. We were itching to really make a house our own. We wanted this one to be reflective of us, welcoming, not a showplace but comfortable and cozy. We’re nesters and we appreciate the aesthetics of older houses.”

Mark and Donn have created warm, inviting, comfortable spaces throughout the property, from the bright front porch to the lower

level guest suite, and from the master bedroom’s new window seat to the back yard garden patio under a huge, sheltering oak tree. The kitchen, which they’ve remodeled twice, was designed by Donn, Mr. Function and the primary cook. When they bought the house, the walls of the entire kitchen and breakfast area had diagonal barnboard siding—along with blue cabinets and ‘horrible lighting’. The upstairs office, which Donn and Mark often use simultaneously, has two desks nestled together.

VALENTINE’S DAY 1981

Mark picked Donn’s name on a valentine upon entering a mutual friend’s party in 1981. He was charged with finding and talking to him. And talk they did—the entire evening. They started going out shortly thereafter and moved into an apartment together November 1st, which they consider their anniversary. Mark and Donn were 30 and 34 when they met—32 years ago.

During these years, Donn had a 30-year career as a technical analyst in corporate information systems while Mark’s career in corporate communications was enriched by dancing in several companies and shows into his early thirties.


Mark and Donn are not sure yet what their specific plans will be for their legal marriage on their upcoming anniversary. They had a commitment ceremony on their 20th anniversary in their home, performed by a “very liberal” Catholic priest. “I’m glad you’re finally

Continued on page 184 ➔

“WE HAVE REDONE AND TOUCHED VIRTUALLY EVERY SURFACE IN EVERY ROOM,” MARK RECALLS.



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married—in the church,” Mark remembers his mother quipping.

They have already had a symbolic wedding, they say, and for many years have considered themselves to be married. They have all the legal protections gay couples can at this point—powers of attorney, living wills, and partnership agreements.

Mark and Donn see their upcoming marriage “as strictly a legal and civil matter.” Donn adds that he wants to do it to have all the legal protections and rights of marriage, some of which can’t be covered otherwise, such as taxes and inheritance. “For me, it’s purely legalistic but, when the day comes, I’m sure I will be moved,” Donn suggests.

“I’m excited for all the people who will be united for the first time. And let’s hope federal recognition is not far behind,” Mark adds.

They never imagined they’d be legally married, says Mark, “but we’re so gratified our home state is progressive again. It’s empowering. My parents want this for us.”

Clockwise: Mark and Donn, not long after that Valentine’s party, Spring 1981; “Historic real estate photos are a great resource in determining a house’s original appearance,” says David. Note the open front porch. Photo courtesy of Hennepin History Museum; Original dining room buffet: “The house had good bones.”



THEY HAVE INDEED CREATED A LOVELY NEST FOR THEMSELVES, FRIENDS, AND FAMILY.

STEWARDSHIP

Donn, 67, and Mark, 63, both retired two years ago. Mark, Mr. Form, is now in graduate school at the U of M’s Center for Spirituality & Healing to earn certificate in health coaching. He’s looking forward to working part-time, directly with people, in a highly creative endeavor. Donn, Mr. Function, volunteers at Mount Olivet Careview Home teaching residents and staff how to use new computers.

They have indeed created a lovely nest for themselves, friends, and family. How long might they stay in the house? “As long as possible—until I can’t go up the stairs,” says Donn. Mark observes that “we consider ourselves the stewards, not owners, of this house and parcel, and it feels good to renew it for the next 100 years. We love this place and care about it deeply. A few years after we bought the house, a neighbor came by on Halloween to say ‘You have made this house blossom. Thank you.’ I will never forget that,” he adds with emphasis and a pause.

The renovated porch and house are a manifestation and reflection of the complementary Mr. Form and Mr. Function and their relationship—warm, comfortable, inviting, and collaborative. They are the emotional and rational, the dancer and the computer programmer. Theirs is a house built with yin-yang—a dynamic system in which two complementary forces interact to form a whole greater than the separate parts.

Has their neighborhood been receptive to a gay couple? “Oh god yeah. Completely. Nothing but support from everyone on the block,” they exclaim. “We love this neighborhood and our neighbors.” A 93-year-old neighbor across the street left Mark and Donn a phone message when the Minnesota Legislature approved a marriage equality bill last month. Her message: “I’m so thrilled for you two.”



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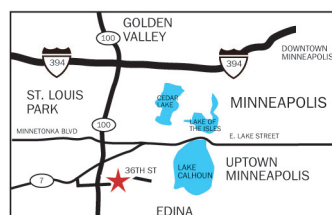


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BY TODD PERNSTEINER



Stylish decor at 36 Park (36 Bark) Apartments. Photo by Todd Pernsteiner

Being a dog at one local living community is nothing to bark at. In fact, no matter how large or small the breed, four-legged roommates are very much welcomed.

Open since March 2013, 36 Park Apartments in St. Louis Park has welcomed many dogs of all shapes and sizes to their community. While a majority of apartment buildings turn away pet owners with large breed dogs weighing more than 20 pounds, 36 Park rolls out the welcome mat. Actually, residents are allowed up to two dogs or cats in their unit.

“We wanted to set ourselves apart as a welcoming community,” said Rachael Hoeschen, 36 Park property manager. “We accept dogs of all sizes.”

To add to their pet-friendly mission, 36 Park provides a dog spa where residents can give their pooch baths as needed. The facility even supplies the shampoo. And for those who don’t want to wash or groom their own pups, a full-service pet spa is a couple of blocks away at Excelsior & Grand. Also nearby is Bone Marché pet store which is at-

tached to nearby Byerly’s grocery store.

Pet lovers will appreciate the playful nature that 36 Park has created for their residents. When residents get out of the pet-specific elevator they are greeted by a stamped paw print path that leads them outside to the pet potty area and trash station. The pet exit is also a quick way to get onto a sidewalk that leads to nearby parks, trails and pet-friendly stores.


Resident Kari Gray and her furry roommate Grizzly, and her foster dog, Mckenzie, love to



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It's a dog's life. Photos by Todd Pernsteiner

walk to Wolfe Park, just two blocks away from the complex. The large city park boasts a variety of trails, grassy areas and water features.

"Being pet-friendly is the main reason we choose 36 Park," said Gray. "We did a lot of research and found that they were one of the only places in the Twin Cities that allowed larger dogs."

The community accepts a majority of canine companions, minus aggressive breeds

such as Pit Bulls, Rottweilers, Akitas, and a small handful of others. The community has a simple chart of breeds that are discouraged on the property. "We understand the strong bonds people have with their pets. To many, their pets are part of their families and we embrace that," added Hoeschen.

My summary: 36 Park is so pet-friendly, they should've named the building "36 Bark". It definitely wins best of show in my book.

36 Park Apartments is a new residential community located in St. Louis Park, just outside Minneapolis. The building boasts a wi-fi café, lawn bowling, a roof deck featuring a fire pit and entertaining room overlooking the Minneapolis skyline, and spacious apartments. The apartment building is close to dining, shopping and entertainment venues. More details can be found at www.36park.com. □



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BY SHANE LUECK

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— Skirting the Issues —

Five Things

BY ELLEN KRUG

Five years ago, on Pride Weekend, I stepped out the front door of my condo dressed as female for the first time. I had absolutely no clue about make-up or hair back then, meaning that I guessed on everything. The result wasn't all that great—think AARP Bride of Frankenstein.

Still, I found the guts to phone a cab to take me to Pi, that now-defunct lesbian place. After some awkward moments, the evening at Pi turned out just fine.

Fine enough for me to transition to full time woman in 2009. Surgeries—body and face—followed in 2010.

What have I learned in those five years?

Oh so much! I've crammed nearly a life's worth of learning into half a decade's amount of time.

Here are my top five takeaways, lessons learned:

1. We Don't Have a Choice about Some Things in Life. For most of my life, I tried to choose my gender. Me as a girl? No way! I was born with male plumbing and I was in love with a beautiful woman who adored me as a man. I was certain that if only I could find the right therapist, or chanted the right mantra, or bought more toys or made just enough money, I could exorcise the female demon inside me.

I couldn't have been more wrong.

We are who we are. That's the wonderment—and burden—of being human.

I finally understand that choice really wasn't part of the equation. Knowing this now takes care of a lot of baggage, like guilt or hurting over people who drift away because they can't accept me.

I'm Ellie Krug because that's just who I am.

Writing that made me smile.

2. Transitioning is Nothing Compared to What Some People Go Through. I met a medical aide named "Marie" at the hospital after my reassignment surgery. On my fifth day of recovery, she brought me the Sunday New York Times—what a nice gesture! We shared personal stories and I talked about recently undergoing facial feminization. She let slip that she had too, had had very extensive facial surgeries.

The reason?

One day, her unstable ex-boyfriend lost his temper and pulled a gun. He shot Marie in the face, and believing she was fatally wounded, he then killed himself.

Marie talked about the many people who helped her—including a surgeon who donated his time—in the months afterwards. Multiple facial surgeries restored what anger and a bullet had taken away, and now, she was getting on with life.

What a story. What a person.

Suddenly, I realized that surgery to turn penis-to-vagina and nine days of recovery fighting boredom were nothing big.

So, when things get sticky—the job, my twenty-something kids, money—I try to remember Marie and what she went through.

It puts everything in context.

3. The Bottom Rung Isn't Very Pretty. I've been doing nonprofit work for a year and a half helping low-income people connect with lawyers. As a man, I resided in that "Top 2%" we heard so much about last election. Now, I'm in the "Bottom 47%." When I was rich, I thought poor people were simply looking for handouts. Today I understand that for many, race or class or gender, or just plain bad luck, skews the system against them. Some people will have an uphill fight their entire lives.

Paraphrasing a famous movie line, I see poor and marginalized people everywhere. As Ellie Krug, my true calling is to champion them.

4. Regret is Way Different than Loss. I've come to understand that regret is fundamentally different than loss. Transitioning—a life-changing decision, for sure—brought me significant loss, as I allude to above. Yet, not for a second have I regretted transitioning. How could I regret becoming *me*?

It was how things had to be.

5. Kindness and Gratitude Go a Long Way. Since Pride 2008, I've received so much kindness and generosity from others. In turn, this helped Ellie Krug become a kinder—and much more human—person.

I'm certain that wouldn't have happened had I not first walked out the front door of my condo dressed as a woman.

I am so incredibly grateful to everyone. That includes you, dear gentle readers, who allow me to briefly occupy a space in your mind once a month.

Happy Pride 2013! □

Ellie Krug is the author of *Getting to Ellen: A Memoir about Love, Honesty and Gender Change*. She welcomes your comments at ellenkrugwriter@gmail.com

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Bee My Friend?

BY JENNIFER PARELLO

The World Wide Internets has helpfully fueled my obsession with interspecies friendships. My browser bookmark bar is packed with links to images of these unlikely couplings. A hippo and turtle comforting each other after a tsunami. Killer whales adopting a lame dolphin. A mother tiger nursing orphaned piglets who have been wrapped in tiger fur so she will accept them.

My favorite interspecies buddy stories involve the pairing of predator and prey. A turtle that likes to hitch a ride on an alligator. A cat mothering newborn chicks. A cheetah nuzzling a dog.

As an animal lover, I've had my share of rather unhealthy relationships with other species. Like many middle-aged women who find it much easier and more gratifying to deal with animals than people, I've surrounded myself with a menagerie of creatures that give me unconditional love while requiring nothing but a full bowl of food, a belly scratch, and the occasional car ride.

A couple springs ago, though, I entered into one of my more unusual interspecies relationships. It was a predator and prey situation between me and a bumble bee.

The bee entered into my life during a particularly difficult period. I had recently gone through

a bad breakup where I was pegged as the villain. I was expelled from the local lesbian community and was living in exile in a cabin in the country.

It was there, licking my wounds and getting tipsy on tequila gimlets, that I met the bee. Each night I'd retreat to the wooden deck with my large cocktail and gaze out into mid-distance, trying to piece together the fragments of my former life. One evening, my catatonic daze was interrupted by an insistent buzzing near my feet, which were propped up on the deck's railing. I looked down and saw a bubble bee as fat and colorful as a lozenge hovering at my ankle. I tried to shoo it away, but it continued to fly near my feet. So, I lowered my feet and it immediately scooted into a hole in the deck railing. Then it popped its head out of its nest and seemed to give me a little nod of thanks.

I was so charmed by this small display of gratitude—something I was so hungry for after suffering such a beating by the angry hand of the outraged lesbian cabal—that I began looking forward to this nightly routine. After work, I'd go to the deck and put my feet over the bee's nest and wait for him to arrive and request entre.

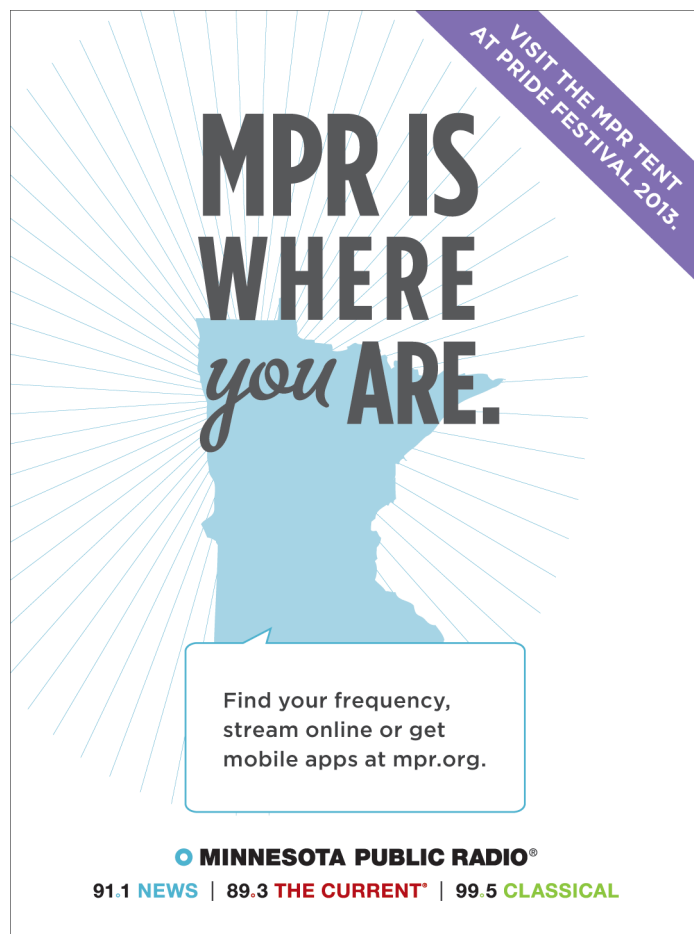
Before long, the bee and I deepened our bond. He'd come out of his nest and bob next to my

head for hours, like a tiny Macy's Day Parade balloon. When I'd drive up to the house, I'd see him winging toward me from the porch and he'd fly alongside me as I walked to the house. Even the dogs became friendly with him. At first, mistaking him for a flying treat, they tried to snatch him in flight. But soon, they allowed him to tag along as they patrolled the yard. I refused to spray any insecticides, even though the cabin was deep in the woods and suffered constant onslaught from teams of wasps, mosquitos and other pests.

I was distressed, of course, at the end of summer and what I assumed would be the end of my bee's short life. But the next spring, he or one of his offspring took up residency in the nest and our relationship resumed.

My life and my spirits have improved tremendously since I first met my bee. Yet each spring, I think of that bee and the small joy it gave me during a dark time.

Although we all count on The Big Romance to make us feel alive, sometimes what we really need is a good friend to show us that we don't need to rely on sex, obsession and infatuation to experience the deep mystery and wonder of life. ■



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Minneapolis, MN
www.twincities.hrc.org
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www.eccl.org

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www.hohchurch.org

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www.jewishminneapolis.org

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7450 Powers Blvd,
Chanhassen, MN
(952) 380-2200
www.TempleofECK.org

United Methodist Reconciling Churches

Congregations around Minnesota that intentionally welcome all people regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.
www.mnrcumc.org

Westminster Presbyterian Church

A Covenant Network Congregation, Working Toward a Church as Generous and Just as God's Grace.
Nicollet Mall at 12th St. Minneapolis, MN
(612) 332-3421
www.ewestminster.org

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Minneapolis, MN
(612) 721-6215
www.littlebrothersmn.org

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www.primetimersww.org/ptmsp/

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Forced Monogamy and Feeling Funny About Fantasizing

BY MERYL COHN

Dear Ms. Behavior:

What do you think of a man who demands monogamy before even being in a relationship? I met Joel at the gym and we've had several dates that have, surprisingly, not resulted in sex. Joel is great and sexy and smart, but he refuses to sleep with me... unless I promise not to sleep with anyone else while we date.

I'm capable of monogamy, but don't see why I should agree to it without knowing whether or not Joel is the one. (Isn't sex one of the ways you decide if someone is right for you?) Joel is not pushing for an emotion commitment before getting to know me, but he insists on sexually fidelity if our relationship becomes sexual. I asked him if this is a fear-of-HIV issue, but he says "No." He's not willing to compromise about it. He says, "If it's not worth it to you to give up anonymous sex for a few weeks to check it out with me, fine. Don't have sex with me."

If I did agree to Joel's terms and stopped having sex with others in order to date him, wouldn't it be dishonest? I'd be agreeing to be faithful under false pretenses, i.e., not because I love him but just to get him to have sex with me. I don't really understand the point. On the other hand, I guess there's no harm in giving myself a rest for a few weeks.

I'm confused about whether or not it's wrong to agree to something I don't really believe in. I've also considered telling Joel I'm not having sex with anyone else, but doing what I

want to do anyway, since it won't harm anyone.

Also, what if I have sex with Joel and it sucks?

-TONY

Dear Tony:

You're making this way too complicated. If you find that sex with Joel sucks, don't do it again. It's not like he's asking you to sign up to have him be your only sexual partner for life – just while you're with him. Here's the cool part: If you have sex with Joel once and don't like it, you can blow every racquetball player at your gym the next day.

You don't need to believe in Joel's premise, or even pretend to think it's a good idea. The question is only whether or not you're willing to play by his rules. If you're willing to give yourself "a rest" from your usual tricks, that's fine. If you're not, that's also okay; there's nothing wrong with passing up the opportunity to date Joel. But don't be a rat and pretend to be monogamous when you're not, just because you believe it "won't harm anyone." Ms. Behavior's powers do not extend to clearing anyone's Karma

Dear Ms. Behavior:

Is it okay to fantasize about other people while making love to my partner of four years? I'm not cheating, am I? I mean, don't fantasies about others help keep couples together?

-FAR, FAR AWAY

Dear Far, Far Away:

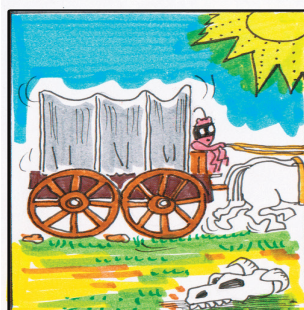
You're not giving much information, are you? There's probably no harm in having sex with your partner while fantasizing about Lady Gaga, Sarah Michelle Gellar, or Venus Williams, or even Jake Gyllenhaal for that matter. There's not much chance that you'll meet one of these people or that the focus you place on these fantasies will harm your real-life relationship.

But if you happen to have a real-life crush on a friend or coworker, you should at least *try* not to think about that person while you're in bed with your partner. Thinking of your crush at the wrong time –the moment of orgasm, for example—will only enhance your feelings for that person and create distance between you and your partner. It's not exactly "cheating," but having a private fantasy- about tying up your next-door neighbor and licking honey off her breasts, for example- while your girlfriend's face is between your thighs might be an obstacle to feeling close. Of course, you can always tell your partner what's going on in your head, reciting what's happening as if you're reading subtitles on a movie screen. This could be sexy and help you stay connected to your partner, physically, emotionally, and romantically. □

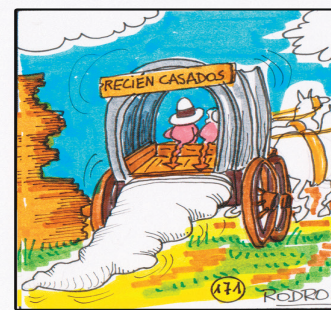
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Prince of Pride

BY JUSTIN JONES

Full, kissable, seductive lips. Smooth, creamy skin. Black hair. Masculine brow. And he's tall, tall, tall. Cliche and in all ways a Disney prince.

He's on a rooftop in the middle of a crowd made of straight girls marveling at drag queens, straight boys vying for girls' affections, and gay boys and girls enchanted by all of the above. We are here today to watch a parade, the finale to a month-long celebration: Twin Cities Pride.

It's 80 degrees. Sunny. Windless. Humid. The weather is prime for the boastful to take off their shirts, and they do so en masse, but, contrary to the stereotype, the shirtless aren't Pride's main attraction. All eyes are on Hennepin Avenue, which today serves as the stage for an annual celebration equal parts party and reflection. Floats, cars, walkers, and banners, representing every facet of the GLBT-A community, soon will march to great fanfare.

Music on the rooftop is a heavy-bass blend of remixed top-40 songs and gay anthems. The crowd erupts when Whitney, Cher, and the Pointer Sisters play. The joy is intoxicating. Subtract from the scene music and weather and the resulting would be a picture to cheer even the grumpiest, most Pride-despising GLBT absentee. Cameras are in no short supply.

I'm dancing when I see him. He's straight from a fairytale, standing out from the crowd, a statue among chaos. He's by himself, no doubt in the cross-hairs of many admirers. His beauty is of the order whose members are never seen outside the company of the equally-striking, but there he is, alone and silent.

To my friends I show this Disney prince,

and they tease me and tell me to make an approach. But my hair and face are sweat-soaked and ruined, and he is anyway out of my league. I am insecure, and I decide to this man I will remain unknown.

The parade begins. It immediately is clear now to any stranger that diversity and pride today aren't constrained to sexuality, but beyond and into ideas and interests independent of it. There are musicians, movie junkies, softball players, and rodeo cowboys marching alongside community activists, religious groups, and multinational corporations. It's exciting in a spine-tingling, proud-of-being-proud sort of way.

Smells delicious and tempting waft from pizza and popcorn vendors below. There are sights of candy-colored stilt walkers, the Pillsbury Doughboy and his brethren, and people dressed in flamboyant Pride-themed costumes. Music plays. Crowds roar. And bright-eyed children proudly stand with their families.

We laugh, cheer, sing, and dance. We drink to our brothers and sisters, to ourselves, and to our history. We toast with strangers and scream "Happy Pride!" to anyone who'll listen (and, hell, to those who won't).

It's adrenaline. Empowerment. Euphoria. Love. All at once. No more wonderful could a packed moment be.

The rush elevates my confidence, and I decide to introduce myself to my Disney prince. I look to where he was to find that he has gone. I search him out and I find the same. Regret's the word.

The parade ends and celebrants make way toward Pride's fairgrounds in Loring Park. My friends and I decide to stay a while longer, and over fresh cocktails we share

stories from the Prides of our youth, mutually-held and mischief-filled. We gossip about lovers from our pasts and concoct funny, Where-Are-They-Now stories.

During a lull in our conversation, I long for my just-missed Disney prince. I wonder why he was alone, someone so beautiful, and I rack my mind for a reason. Was he too shy to make friends? Too new to the Twin Cities? Or was he an asshole with no hope for friendship?

Suddenly I feel bad for thinking this way, not of him, but of others. I think to what other people I saw alone today, showing off their pride but not their bodies, men unnoticed because they didn't fit our sparkling, shirtless stereotype.

Among them, I imagine, was perhaps not a Disney prince, but a real one. ■



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